

**Testimony of Linda Bailiff, Director
Ohio Public Works Commission**

**Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
Tuesday, May 2, 2023**

Good morning, Chairman Schaffer and Committee members. I am Linda Bailiff, Director of the Ohio Public Works Commission. With me is Abbey DeHart, our Chief Financial Officer. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Commission's 24-25 Biennial Budget request.

H.B. 33 contains funding for operating and debt service line items for two of the three programs under our administration, the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) which is our infrastructure bond program, and the Clean Ohio Conservation program. These items, in addition to funding for the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) contained in the transportation budget bill, will allow us to continue to assist with the needs of Ohio's local governments.

Our total operating - administrative, maintenance, and equipment - is prorated between our various programs, 60% SCIP, 20% Clean Ohio, and 20% LTIP. This reflects retention of eight existing staff and one vacancy. It also is based on the continued development of our customer cloud platform, WorksWise, and transition to a maintenance status the second half of the biennium. Our total operating budget reflects our administrative effort necessary to manage our programs which is about one-half percent of all our capital funds. We currently have more than 1,500 active infrastructure projects, 150 Clean Ohio projects, and a portfolio of more than 3,500 loans.

In addition to operating, the budget contains debt service lines items for both SCIP and Clean Ohio which decreased substantially from the prior biennium. OBM provides these numbers but in response to our inquiry they stated the decreases are primarily a matter of timing and using cash to pay off the bonds rather than refunding them.

Although capital funds are, of course, contained in the current capital act please note that SCIP is in its eighth year of its current 10-ten year bonding authorization which means we will eventually need the assistance of the General Assembly for a state ballot issue prior to expiration of the current authority.

We are happy to respond to any questions and have also provided contact information.

Linda Bailiff, Director, Linda.Bailiff@pwc.ohio.gov, 614-644-1823

Abbey DeHart, Chief Financial Officer, Abbey.DeHart@pwc.ohio.gov, 614-728-2466