



**Hearcel F. Craig**

State Senator

15th District

**Sponsor Testimony – Senate Joint Resolution 4**

**Ohio Senate Finance Committee**

**November 12, 2024**

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify about Senate Joint Resolution 4. Senator Chavez, thank you for your work and collaboration on this resolution to renew the issuance of bonds to fund the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) at the Ohio Public Works Commission.

It is critical that our state government continues to support local public works projects in Ohio that will not only improve the quality of our communities, but that will also create economic growth and provide new job opportunities for Ohio workers. The projects funded by this popular program help maintain the most fundamental operations of our state and ensure that basic infrastructure needs are met for counties, cities, villages, townships, and water sanitary districts across the state. Program Funding is provided to local governments through grants, loans, and loan assistance or local debt support.

Voters first approved of the State Capital Improvement Program in 1987, creating new opportunities for the improvement of roads, bridges, and water supply systems. Since then, SCIP has continuously been renewed by voters and has always received bipartisan support. Senate Joint Resolution 4 will provide voters with the chance to reauthorize the program and amend the provisions of the Ohio Constitution to allow for the issuance of general obligation bonds.

It is critical for our state legislature to support the improvement and maintenance of essential infrastructure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SJR 4 and we are willing to answer any questions about the resolution.