



PATRICK T. GINNETTI, P.E., P.S.
MAHONING COUNTY ENGINEER

Ohio Senate Finance Committee

Patrick T. Ginnetti, P.E., P.S.

Mahoning County Engineer, Mahoning County Sanitary Engineer
and President of the County Engineers Association of Ohio

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Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony for The Reauthorization of the Ohio Public Works Issue 2 Funding. My name is Patrick Ginnetti, P.E., P.S. I am the Mahoning County Engineer and President of the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO).

I am writing to express my support for the reauthorization of Issue 2 to fund the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). The Ohio Public Works Commission offers grants, loans and loan assistance through several funding programs. The State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP), the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP), Small Government Program and the Emergency Program. In the two (2) county OPWC district that Mahoning County resides in, each county, township, city and village relies heavily on one (1) or more of the funding programs to repair and provide maintenance to its critical infrastructure. Most, if not all, of the communities would not be able to perform the necessary work without the funding opportunities that OPWC provides. All communities, especially County Engineers, have adapted to doing more with less as a result of stagnant budgets and inflationary increases. The Ohio Public Works Commission provides an avenue of relief in the form of competitive funding. The competitive nature of the funding programs ensure that good projects are being moved to the forefront and critical infrastructure is getting the necessary attention it needs in order to provide improvements to roads, bridges, culverts, drinking water systems and wastewater treatment systems.

The Mahoning County Engineers Office as well as the Sanitary Engineering Department of Mahoning County utilize the SCIP and LTIP Programs each year and have recently utilized the Emergency Program as well. In just the past two (2) years, Mahoning County was able to secure sufficient funding through SCIP and LTIP to pave over 25 miles of roads, replace 5 box culverts, reline approximately 15,000 LF of sanitary sewer pipe and perform upgrades at several of the county's Wastewater Treatment Plants. OPWC also provided emergency funding to aid in the repair of a roadway subsidence issue that surfaced. Had it not been for the OPWC Funding, a lengthy road closure would have resulted as well as delays to scheduled improvements to critical infrastructure.

Even though all projects are not funded each year, the program provides a fair process to all and impacts the region positively by providing crucial financial assistance needed for maintaining our aging infrastructure. I sincerely thank you for allowing me the time to speak on this matter, and I look forward to further discussions.