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**OHIO SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**PROPONENT TESTIMONY – SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4**

November 12, 2024

David Painter  
Clermont County Commissioner

Good Afternoon, Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is David Painter. I am a Clermont County Commissioner and First Vice President of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO). I am also a past President of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, an organization that provides transportation and regional planning and coordinates federal infrastructure grant opportunities across eight counties in three states.

I am here today to express my support for Senate Joint Resolution 4, which would place a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot to reauthorize the issuance of general obligation debt for the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission. I want to thank the sponsors of the resolution, Senators Brian Chavez and Hearcel Craig, for introducing this legislation and supporting a program that provides vital resources for communities across the state. Given the expiration of the program's current authority on July 1, 2025, I urge the General Assembly to approve the resolution in time to be placed on the May 2025 ballot.

The State Capital Improvement Program has been an essential source of infrastructure funding for Clermont County and the other three counties in OPWC District 10 (Butler, Clinton, and Warren). The district integrating committee process creates an opportunity for local governments to work together to establish priorities and identify long-term needs. By law, our district committee is comprised of representatives from counties, cities, townships, and villages, plus one county engineer and one member at large with experience in local infrastructure planning and economic development. This is a process that encourages deliberation, compromise, and the development of a regional perspective on infrastructure needs.

In the most recent round of funding awards released in June 2024, Clermont County government received \$2.6 million for three projects, listed below. Please understand that the costs of these projects are shared between the state and the county. For example, the Branch Hill – Miamisville Road Main replacement project has a total cost of approximately \$2.6 million, with the state contributing \$1 million. This round of SCIP funding also provided support for two other projects in our county: a bridge and culvert replacement project for the Village of Bethel and a watermain replacement project for the Village of Williamsburg.

**Clermont County Government SCIP Projects, June 2024 Awards**

Branch Hill Miamisville Road Water Main Replacement Phase II	\$1,000,000	Water Supply
Hopper Hill, Baldwin, Coombs & Moscow Cemetary Landslide Repairs	\$620,257	Road
Bray, Marathon Edenton, Newtonsville Hutchinson Bridge Replacements	\$1,021,200	Bridge/Culvert

Across our four- county district, a total of 19 projects received over \$14 million from SCIP grants or loans in the most recent funding round. These projects involved a range of infrastructure needs, including bridges, water supply, wastewater, and roads. Without state support, it would be much more difficult, and sometimes impossible, for local governments to undertake these projects.

Given the surge in construction inflation in recent years, the proposed amendment increases the annual debt authorization from its current \$200 million to \$250 million. This will allow local governments to continue to tackle the challenges of providing the infrastructure necessary for continued economic growth in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the reauthorization of the State Capital Improvement Program. This program has provided vital support for infrastructure in communities across the state since its inception in 1987. On behalf of Clermont County and CCAO, I urge you to favorably report Senate Joint Resolution 4 and continue this successful partnership for another decade. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.