



November 12, 2024

Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Ohio Contractors Association, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Joint Resolution 4.

The work of the Ohio Public Works Commission is a critical part of infrastructure funding in Ohio. We appreciate the fact that this legislature is considering a bill that, contingent upon an affirmative public vote, not only continues the program into the future but enhances it as well.

The funding provided by the OPWC allows local government to address significant transportation infrastructure and water and wastewater system needs. These are services citizens expect the government to provide. Yet, maintaining these services demands a reliable, ongoing investment to stem the tide of ever-eroding conditions due to time and use, along with demands related to population growth and redistribution, economic development, and higher standards of performance. Without programs such as OPWC's, the list of needs continues to grow with fewer and fewer means to stem the negative tide.

For the heavy and highway segment of the construction industry OCA represents, this program will further strengthen job creation and retention efforts. OPWC projects vary greatly in size and complexity, which helps support our small to mid-size contractors. The names of these companies might not be as familiar as some of our larger companies, but they can be found in all areas of the state and are usually family owned and operated. The long-term nature of the OPWC program provides those smaller

companies with a reliable funding program that can help stabilize hiring needs and support business investment and growth.

The design, construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure alone supports the equivalent of over 109,000 full-time jobs in Ohio in both the private and public sectors. These employees earn a total annual payroll of \$4.2 billion and contribute an estimated \$365 million in state and federal payroll tax revenue. Additionally, the existence of more than 2.7 million full-time jobs in Ohio in key industries like logistics, tourism, retail sales, agriculture and manufacturing are dependent on the state's transportation infrastructure network. This program provides yet another means to hold and grow jobs and to feed this money in the form of paychecks and material purchases back into an economy that grows only when the workforce can invest in it.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for SJR 4 and continued infrastructure investment.

Respectfully,
Christopher Runyan
OCA President