

November 10, 2023

Dear Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the transportation committee:

I write to you today as a passionate supporter of SB 155 and hope that you carefully consider and extend your wholehearted support for SB 155. The recent introduction of new language in the transportation budget, which mandates the construction of an interchange every 4.5 miles between major cities, has sparked deep concerns within the neighborhoods located within the vicinity of the proposed interchange.

This hasty approach to legislation introduced by the Strongsville State Rep and the disregard for thorough consideration have left our communities feeling vulnerable and neglected. The proposed interchange project has the potential to cause irreversible damage to our environment and disrupt the very fabric of our neighborhoods. The use of Eminent Domain to acquire homes at minimal compensation is not only alarming but deeply unjust in the current economic climate. Furthermore, the potential ecological risks posed by the relocation of jet fuel and gas pipelines cannot be ignored.

Recent studies by Strongsville have brought to light the minimal benefits of the proposed project, raising serious questions about its validity and the motives driving it forward. It is evident that underlying financial interests (creating access to the the Foltz Industrial parkway disguised as a need for an interchange at Boston Rd.) should not overshadow decisions that have the potential to negatively impact our community.

The potential destruction of homes and the disruption of lives caused by this interchange demand our attention and compassion. We cannot allow these vital concerns to be overlooked, especially when experts have suggested more suitable alternatives that align with the best interests of our community.

By supporting SB 155, there is a remarkable opportunity to halt the implementation of this ill-conceived project and seek fair and equitable solutions proposed by experts. Your support for this bill is crucial in preserving the sanctity and integrity of our neighborhoods, setting a commendable precedent for future decision-making processes.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of our community's heartfelt concerns. I am eager to witness your unwavering commitment to serving our community's best interests.

With fervent hope and gratitude,
Kristen Sperber
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