

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

I strongly support Senate Bill 155. This is a very important matter to me and my household. I have lived on Benbow Rd in Strongsville since I was born in 1973. I served 20 years in the U.S Military as an Airborne Ranger and a Special Forces Soldier. I fought in the Battle of Mogadishu which the movie *BlackHawk Down* was made about. I inherited the house from my elderly mother after I retired and now reside here with my wife and two children.

Benbow Rd would be heavily affected by this interchange. It is less than a mile long and has a speed limit of 25 mph. We have no sidewalks and already have a narrow road (even after a recent repaving of the road, that has increased the speeders and danger to all who live on our street). My mother was even hit 15 years ago backing out of our driveway and it flipped her car upside down and only by the grace of God did she live. Our street is very hilly and has many blind spots. An interchange would cause it to be a main thoroughfare, even if they dead ended our street, there is a cut through the development that would bring one directly to the proposed interchange.

That development is also full of small children and would make it a very unsafe place for the children. The study that cost \$325,000 showed this interchange would not increase safety and would only deter 2-8% of the traffic from the interchange in Strongsville at 82. I have attended every Strongsville City Council meeting since April when this interchange idea was made public. The city lawyer made it clear at one resident's question re zoning could take place and gas stations and the like could also be moved into the neighborhood. I have spoken to all of my neighbors, and they all have blue signs in their yards stating say no to the interchange. No one in our community wants this interchange. Many people would lose their homes and there would be a dramatic safety issue, along with a very real crime issue increase, as can be seen in other interchanges that have appeared in residential areas in the state of Ohio. I am thankful for the representatives who brought this repeal to the congress of Ohio and all your time to consider repealing this law now that we have seen what the very expensive professional study has found.

I took a vacation day from my work at St John hospital today as I did when I came here a few weeks ago for the house bill to repeal this law. When I was here last time one representative summed it up so well from what they heard. They said, "if no one on Boston Road wants this interchange and no one in the surrounding area where the interchange will be put in wants it, the people who would benefit the most from getting home 5 minutes earlier each day, then why are we even considering putting an interchange in?" His words sum this all up so well. I hope and pray all of you will also see it as clearly as he did and repeal this law. Thank you so much for your time.

Dr. Buckley A. Wilford