

October 21, 2025

Testimony of Sheriff Matthew O. Hafey to the OHRT  
Transportation Committee

Chairman Willis, Vice Char Daniels, Ranking Member Grim and the members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today as a proponent of H.B. 37 designating SR-56 between Five Points and the Madison County line in Pickaway County. Det. Emrick was not only a great investigator for the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office, but a well known and respected member of the community. He dedicated his life to public service; starting as a patrol officer in 1974 with the Mt. Sterling Police Department joined the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office 1976 where he served until his untimely death in 2001.

Det. Emrick worked in a variety of capacities at the Sheriff's Office to include communications, road patrol and ultimately

the investigations division. He worked with Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission under former Ohio Attorney Generals Anthony J. Celebrezze Jr., Lee Fisher and Betty Montgomery.

Detective Emrick was a team player, worked hard at any assignment he was given, he followed the position that we need to give every investigation your best. He was the lead investigator on several major cases to include homicide and child sex abuse cases, and you can be assured that his hard work paid off with convictions as well as the recovery of thousands of dollars of stolen property.

Detective Emrick attended many hours of law enforcement related seminars and received many special acknowledgments from victims of crime, citizens, as well as prosecutors, judges and his fellow officers. He received The Buckeye State Sheriff's Association for the Outstanding Performance of Duty, 1996-1997 Ohio Auto Theft Investigator of the Year, 2001 VFW Post #3331 Circleville Officer of the Year, 2011 Ohio Auto Theft Investigator of The Year, 2012 Central Ohio Crime Stoppers Law

Enforcement Officer of the Year and the 32 Degree Masons Valley of Columbus and Pickaway County Scottish Rite Association Community Service Award.

He was a member of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, who has supported passage of this legislation, and the National Sheriff's Association.

Again, thank you for allowing me to speak about this great Deputy, family man and valued resident of Pickaway County.