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Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 189

Ohio House Transportation

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Thank you, Chair Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, for the opportunity to provide testimony on **Senate Bill 189**, which would create a specialty vehicle license plate honoring one of Ohio's most cherished institutions, the Center of Science and Industry, better known as COSI.

Located in the heart of Columbus, COSI is a nationally celebrated science center that welcomes more than 660,000 visitors each year. It has repeatedly earned the prestigious recognition of being named the **#1 Science Museum in the Nation** by *USA Today's* 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards, a distinction it has received an impressive five times. This recognition is not just a testament to its excellence, but also to its enduring impact on families, students, and lifelong learners across Ohio and beyond.

For over six decades, COSI has served as a pillar in our community, sparking curiosity, advancing STEM education, and making science accessible and exciting for individuals of all ages. Through hands-on exhibits, engaging programming, and strong community partnerships, COSI has inspired countless young minds to dream big and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

This bill would allow Ohioans to show their support for COSI by purchasing a specialty license plate for a fee of \$25. Proceeds from the sale of these plates would go directly to support COSI's operations and educational programming, ensuring that this incredible institution can continue its vital work well into the future.

This initiative is a simple yet meaningful way for Ohioans to express pride in one of our state's most remarkable cultural assets. It also represents an important investment in science education and in the young people who will shape the future of our state.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.