

March 3, 2026

Chair Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim and Members of the House Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 52.

My name is Bob Hackett and I am a former State Senator and State Rep. from Madison County. Former Congressman Dave Hobson passed away in 2024 and he served his constituents well. He was highly successful in providing federal assistance to many quality projects, too many to be named here. Two of the projects funded were I70 expansion to 6 lanes in Clark County (Dave's home county) and SR 33 expansion in Fairfield County. I have worked with Senate Transportation Vice Chair Senator Tim Schaffer to thank Dave for all the work he has done for his district by naming part of these two roads for Dave Hobson.

As a Congressman, Dave worked to improve health care, control government spending and balance the federal budget. Also, he worked tirelessly on national security, and was able to successfully promote Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and worked diligently to privatize military housing and military research. He served on key committees such as the Appropriations Committee and he became the top Republican on the Military Construction Sub-Committee and the Energy-Water Sub-Committee. He was reelected to Congress eight times without serious difficulty. He twice followed Mike DeWine, first to the Ohio Senate and next to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Dave's Congressional district was large but he made sure every region in his district was awarded federal dollars that they deserved. He was always extremely helpful to me in giving quality common sense advice, I personally cannot thank him enough for his great assistance on an ongoing basis.

If you talked to people in his district they will always talk about what he has done for them. He accomplished so much that it was difficult to find a way to honor his legacy, but this bill will attempt to do that and it will last for generations in the future.

Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony. I urge you to support SB 52.