

## **Proponent Testimony for the Ohio Senate Finance Committee**

**Presented by necoTECH**

**Subject: Funding Request for 100% Recycled Asphalt Pavement Testing**

**Funding Source: EPA Scrap Tire Fund**

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of funding for a groundbreaking infrastructure initiative that will benefit Ohio's economy, environment, and leadership in sustainable construction.

My name is Steve Flaherty, and I am the founder and CEO necoTECH, an Ohio-based company committed to developing advanced asphalt technologies that allow for the production of 100% recycled asphalt pavement—far beyond the current industry average of 21% recycled content. Our mission is rooted in innovation, sustainability, and the responsible use of Ohio's resources.

We are here today to respectfully request \$800,000 from the EPA Scrap Tire Fund to support comprehensive testing of our sustainable asphalt at the Ohio Research Institute for Transportation and the Environment (ORITE), located at Ohio University's Lancaster Campus. This funding will support five accelerated pavement test cycles in ORITE's state-of-the-art Accelerated Pavement Load Facility (APLF), one of the most advanced facilities of its kind in the nation.

Our project will test and validate the real-world performance of asphalt made entirely from recycled materials—including rubber from scrap tires—using simulated truck traffic, extreme temperature and humidity conditions, and full-scale construction practices. Each test cycle costs approximately \$150,000. necoTECH will contribute over 500 labor hours and produce all asphalt materials used in testing.

This effort will significantly accelerate data generation and product validation for Ohio asphalt producers—reducing timelines from decades to months—and will help establish confidence in sustainable materials among key industry players like The Shelly Company.

Ohio ranks among the top producers of asphalt in the United States, contributing approximately 18 million tons annually. By validating 100% recycled asphalt pavement, this project has the potential to:

- Create over 35 high-quality jobs
- Generate more than \$36 million in additional economic activity
- Reduce over 30,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions
- Double necoTECH's current production capacity
- Support the construction of four additional asphalt plants in Ohio

In partnership with Ohio University, this initiative will solidify Ohio's leadership in sustainable infrastructure and promote the effective reuse of waste materials such as scrap tires—directly aligning with the mission and goals of the EPA Scrap Tire Fund.

We respectfully urge the committee to allocate \$800,000 from the EPA Scrap Tire Fund to enable this critical research and development effort. This investment will produce a high return through job creation, environmental improvement, and the strengthening of Ohio's infrastructure innovation ecosystem.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.