**SENATE GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE – PROPONENT TESTIMONY, S.B. 475 – 09.29.2026**

**Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee:** Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 475. My name is Donovan O'Neil, and I serve as State Director for Americans for Prosperity–Ohio.

Ohio families continue to feel the impact of higher costs every day. Fuel is not an optional expense for parents traveling to work, small businesses serving their customers, or families getting their children to school and activities. Senate Bill 475 recognizes that problem and presents a responsible plan to address it.

AFP-Ohio supports this legislation because it advances three important principles.

**First, it provides immediate and meaningful relief to Ohioans by temporarily reducing the state gasoline and diesel taxes**. The bill also requires fuel dealers to pass the full benefit of that reduction to consumers.

**Second, it ensures Ohio continues to meet its obligations on infrastructure**. The legislation appropriates $725 million from the General Revenue Fund to replace forgone motor-fuel-tax revenue. Ohioans should not have to choose between relief at the pump and maintaining the roads and bridges they rely upon. Senate Bill 475 allows us to do both.

**Third, it provides this relief without mortgaging Ohio's future**. It does not rely on debt, a future tax increase, or deferred transportation obligations. It identifies and uses resources Ohio has available today to address the costs families are facing today.

Ohio's strong fiscal position did not happen by accident. Pro-growth tax, regulatory, and spending policies—including many of the reforms AFP-Ohio has supported through our Buckeye Blueprint—have helped strengthen Ohio's economy. State revenues have exceeded forecasts, giving policymakers the opportunity to consider how those additional resources should be used.

We welcome that trade-off conversation. Every dollar government spends is a dollar collected from Ohioans through income, sales, fuel, and other taxes. Those dollars could support additional future spending, or a portion can be returned to Ohioans now through meaningful relief at the pump.

Senate Bill 475 makes a clear choice: allow Ohio families to share in the benefits of the state's fiscal strength while continuing to meet our existing infrastructure commitments.

Americans for Prosperity–Ohio appreciates Senators Reynolds and Timken for introducing this legislation. We respectfully encourage the Committee to support Senate Bill 475 and advance it for consideration by the full Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

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