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Chair Roegner and members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 475.

In short, this bill will provide much needed relief to Ohioans at a time when they are feeling pressure as gas prices continue to rise. Farmers, truck drivers, contractors, small business owners and families throughout Ohio have certainly felt the impact of rising gas and diesel fuel prices.

Senate Bill 475 provides immediate relief to Ohioans by implementing a 90-day Ohio Motor Fuel Tax Holiday for gas and diesel fuel, during which time state motor fuel taxes will be reduced from 38.5 cents and 47 cents, respectively, to 1/100th of a cent. For a 20-gallon gas fill up, this equals a savings of nearly $7.70. In total, Senate Bill 475 will provide $725M in savings for Ohio consumers.

Motor fuel taxes are complex and certain retailers in border counties may have interstate agreements, so this "just above zero" rate ensures Ohioans residing in border counties do not experience any unintended consequences. All savings from the fuel tax holiday will be passed onto consumers, and any retailer that does not comply with the requirements may be subject to penalties by the Ohio Department of Taxation and the Ohio Attorney General.

We also ensure our local partners—counties, municipalities, townships, retailers and any state or local program—will be held harmless and reimbursed. This guarantees seamless continuation of important state and local projects and ensures retailers are not paying taxes on fuel that will be sold essentially tax free during the holiday. $725M in General Revenue Fund is appropriated for these payments.

I will now turn it over to my joint sponsor - Senator Timken to provide further testimony on SB 475.

In addition to the fuel tax holiday, we are increasing transparency at the fuel pumps by requiring gas stations to provide itemized receipts to consumers, upon request, that list the number of gallons purchased, the total pre-tax price charged, the total of federal and state motor fuel taxes, and the total post-tax price charged. $1M in General Revenue Fund is appropriated to provide payments of $125 per gas station to cover the cost for compliance with this permanent law change.

I am proud that Ohio's strong fiscal position allows us to provide this relief after already implementing a flat rate income tax, providing over $2B in property tax relief over three years

and a one-time supplemental $350M property tax cut for the nearly 710,000 recipients of the Homestead Exemption (low-income seniors and permanently and totally disabled homeowners).

Ohioans have made their voices loud and clear—they want relief at the pump, and they want their hard-earned dollars to work for them. We owe it to the people of Ohio to provide relief during this time of fiscal hardship, which is why the bill includes an emergency clause. Passage of this bill tells the people their voices have been heard and immediately puts more of their hard-earned money back into their pockets.

Thank you for your time. We are happy to answer any questions.