

Proponent Testimony for Sub HB 54 – Maintain Repeal Language

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Ohio Senate Transportation Committee,

My name is Lucas Merkel, and I am writing to submit proponent testimony in support of Sub HB 54. I strongly urge the committee to retain the repeal language included in this bill, which removes the statutory mandate requiring the construction of a highway interchange.

As you may recall, this repeal language previously passed the Ohio Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support (30-1) in the last General Assembly. The inclusion of this repeal remains critical, as the mandated interchange would severely impact the quality of life for residents in the affected area, including the potential loss of homes through eminent domain.

This testimony submission was made on short notice, and many proponents may not have had the opportunity to submit statements this time. However, I encourage the committee to review the extensive testimony provided in the previous legislative session, which highlighted the broad opposition across all stakeholders to this unnecessary and harmful mandate.

I appreciate your time and consideration and urge you to uphold the will of the Senate by maintaining the repeal language in Sub HB 54.

Sincerely,

Lucas Merkel