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**Senate Transportation Committee
Senate Bill 52 — Sponsor Testimony
Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

Chairman Patton, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 52.

Senate Bill 52 will designate two separate roadways as the Congressman David Hobson Memorial Highway. The first will be in Fairfield County on the northbound and southbound lanes of U.S. Route 33 through the City of Lancaster running between Columbus-Lancaster Road Northwest and Logan-Lancaster Road. The second will be in Clark County on the eastbound and westbound lanes of Interstate 70 between State Route 41 and U.S. Route 68.

Congressman Hobson was a dedicated public servant who was a mentor to many of elected officials, including myself. He started his public service by serving in the Air National Guard as a young man and was called up to active duty during the Berlin Wall Crisis in 1961.

He went on to move his family to Springfield, Ohio in 1965 in pursuit of the American Dream where he worked at Kissell Company along with several other commercial real estate companies over his career while raising his three children with his wife, Carolyn.

Beyond pursuing a successful career in commercial real estate, Congressman Hobson was also an active member of Rotary International, a 33rd Degree Mason, and his college fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Eventually, Congressman Hobson answered the call to serve again where he was elected and served in the Ohio Senate for 8 years as the Majority Whip and President Pro Tempore before running for Congress as a member of the United States House of Representatives.

Congressman Hobson went on to represent Ohio's 7th Congressional District from 1990 to 2009 where he served with honor and distinction and left Ohio and the country as a better place due to his actions and service.

With all of that said, Congressman Hobson was truly committed to his family, community, state and country and whose life and legacy of public service deserves to be memorialized as a leading example to future generations of Ohioans.

This bill breaks from road-naming tradition by designating two separate roadways after the same individual. One roadway is the Lancaster Bypass. Congressman Hobson was responsible for securing the critical federal funding to make it a reality. For 50 years people talked about a bypass, but no one pulled all the components together to make it happen. Without Congressman Hobson's support, the Lancaster bypass would not exist today. Traveling south of Lancaster and Columbus would take significantly longer and would be more dangerous than the bypass on US-33 that we have today.

The second roadway will be dedicated on Interstate 70 in his hometown of Springfield near where Congressman Hobson and Carolyn, his loving wife of 65 years, resided.

This legislation was introduced late last General Assembly as Senate Bill 334. I was proud to joint sponsor this legislation alongside former Senator Bob Hackett. This was one of the last pieces of legislation Senator Hackett carried before the end of his legislative term.

Thank you once again Chairman Patton and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.