



## **Al Cutrona**

State Senator  
33<sup>rd</sup> District

### Committees

Small Business & Economic Opportunity – Chair  
Addiction & Community Revitalization  
Education  
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## **Ohio Senate**

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**June 18, 2025**

### **Senate Transportation Committee Senate Bill 216 Sponsor Testimony**

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 216.

Senate Bill 216 would designate a portion of State Route 7, commonly known as Market Street, in Mahoning County, as the "Clarence 'Sonny' Smith, Jr. Memorial Highway."

Clarence "Sonny" Smith, Jr. passed away on April 13th, 2021, at the age of 92. Active in the community, Sonny was a strong supporter of Youngstown State University and Boardman High School, where he served as an elected member of the Boardman School Board from 1960-1971.

Throughout his lifetime, Sonny used his standing in the community as a force for good. He was the owner of three very successful companies: Diamond Steel, Compco Industries, and Adamas Jewelry. Furthermore, he devoted much of his time to the Mahoning County Republican Party, where he served as chair. He was also a generous philanthropist and active community member for Youngtown State University, where he donated a sizeable gem collection, was honored as "Penguin of the Year," and was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame.

Sonny was heavily involved in many of our community organizations, including the Mahoning Valley Council of Churches and Organization of Protestant Men, the Youngstown Area Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill Industries, the Mahoning Valley Council of Trustees, Boy Scouts of America, Camp Stambaugh, the

Youngstown P.I.C., the Mahoning County Library Board, the Advisory Committee of Sister Jerome's Mission, and the Western Reserve Port Authority.

The portion of State Route 7 in question, from Western Reserve Road north to Washington Boulevard, is the perfect spot for such a designation, as it runs past the location of a parcel Sonny donated to Boardman Township some years ago, which now houses the Boardman Township Government Center.

I believe this road designation is a great opportunity to honor Sonny's memory and all that he did for the Mahoning Valley. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I welcome any questions you may have at this time.