



**HOUSE BILL 64
HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MARCH 26, 2015
PROPONENT TESTIMONY**

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Driehaus and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on HB 64, the executive budget proposal. My name is Tom Balzer and I am the president of the Ohio Trucking Association. The Ohio Trucking Association is nonprofit trade association representing over 800 trucking companies and allied vendor members and has been in existence since 1918.

On behalf of the Ohio Trucking Association, I would like to express our support for language included in the budget that would give the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) oversight over intermodal equipment providers. “Intermodal” is the transportation of freight using multiple modes of transportation, without handling the cargo itself as it changes modes. An example of this form of freight transportation is when a cargo container is moved from a ship or railcar and placed directly on a semi-trailer. This method of transportation allows freight to be transported faster, improves security and reduces damage to the cargo.

HB 64 would improve safety within the intermodal shipping industry by granting the PUCO authority to regulate the operation of each intermodal equipment provider, in addition to regulating the operation of each motor carrier as required in current law. During his testimony before the Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development and Natural Resources, PUCO Chairman Tom Johnson explained that this language was added to be consistent with the authority of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Chairman Johnson further explained that such language was critical to ensure proper safety while transporting this cargo. We would like to commend Governor Kasich and the PUCO for their efforts to provide much needed oversight for this industry. Currently, there is confusion over who is required to maintain and repair the equipment involved in intermodal transportation. Recent changes within the industry have only created more uncertainty. The Ohio Trucking Association is encouraged by the administration’s efforts to provide clear regulatory oversight in HB 64. The Ohio Trucking Association also looks forward to working with the PUCO and other stakeholders in developing administrative rules pertaining to the use and interchange of intermodal equipment.

Chairman Smith and members of the committee I urge your support for the intermodal provisions included in HB 64. Thank you for allowing me to provide comments today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom B", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Balzer, CAE
President, Ohio Trucking Association