



**Written Proponent Testimony for House Bill 501
House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Colonel Richard Fambro
Ohio State Highway Patrol**

Chairman Green, Vice Chairman McClain, ranking member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 501. House Bill 501 seeks to make roadways safer in Ohio for all roadway users.

It is important to note that differing speeds of roadway users is often a contributing factor in many crashes around the state. Whether it be bicyclists, agricultural machinery or animal-drawn vehicles such as buggies or carriages, vehicles traveling at slower speeds present challenges for those traveling at legal speeds especially during times of lower visibility. House Bill 501 is specifically crafted to address the issue of visibility for animal-drawn vehicles.

In Ohio, for the past five years, there have been approximately 140 crashes per year involving animal-drawn vehicles. These crashes have resulted in 18 fatalities and hundreds of injuries. A significant number of these crashes take place during low-light or nighttime hours. The at-fault drivers often tell troopers they “just didn’t see them till it was too late.”

House Bill 501 strengthens the requirements for animal-drawn vehicles in an effort to make these vehicles more visible to other roadway users. To accomplish this goal, the bill has several requirements which include: micro-prism tape, a slow-

moving vehicle emblem, a flashing yellow light to the rear and traditional lighting to the front (white) and rear (red).

While the changes in House Bill 501 will not eliminate crashes involving animal-drawn vehicles, it will certainly address one of the key contributing factors in crashes involving these vehicles, visibility. Increasing the visibility of animal drawn-vehicles will give motorists additional time to adjust their speed and stopping distance which will in turn increase the safety for all roadway users. As a result, the Ohio State Highway Patrol urges the support and passage of House Bill 501.

I would like to thank Representative Wiggam for addressing this important traffic safety issue and the chairman and members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Respectfully,

Colonel Richard S. Fambro
Superintendent
Ohio State Highway Patrol