

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 466-9078
Rep50@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov



Committees

Chair- Infrastructure and
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Reggie Stoltzfus State Representative 50th Ohio House District

Sponsor Testimony: HB 63 House Civil Justice Committee

Chair Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a Sponsor of HB 63.

HB 63 will restrict the use of eminent domain by un-elected government entities for the purposes of recreational trails. Across the state, we are seeing our constituents caught in lengthy and expensive legal battles to protect their property from government overreach for the purpose of building a bike trail.

This legislation will give our constituents an option outside of the court system. This bill will allow individuals facing eminent domain by an un-elected government entity to ask their local legislative authority to veto the use of eminent domain. This will empower our constituents by allowing them to go to their local elected officials for assistance and empower our local legislative bodies to provide legitimate protection of property rights.

You'll recognize HB 63 as being similar to HB 476 of the last General Assembly. That's because this bill is HB 476 with the clarification that the veto procedure can be used at any point in the process. This clarification serves to eliminate any confusion about when the veto can be initiated, so as to not discourage constituents from appealing to its use because they are told the process is too far along.

Please join us in support of this legislation that protects the property of our constituents from government overreach and empowers our local elected officials to better represent the people who elected them.

Chair Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. Thanks again for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.