

Date: 10/12/21

To: Rep. Reggie Stoltzfus (OH-50)

Chairman – Infrastructure & Rural Development Committee

Re: Testimony on Concurrent Resolution lr_134_0131-1

Construction of I 73/74 Extension into Ohio.

cc: Rep. Jason Stephens (OH-93)

Dear Rep. Stoltzfus,

Today I would like to offer up testimony in support of concurrent resolution lr_134_0131-1, which urges the Governor and the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation to facilitate the extension/construction of I-73/74 into Ohio.

As a Commissioner in Scioto County, I understand the need for an interstate highway into our region, and have long lobbied for this project to become a reality. The recent construction of the 4-lane, 70 mph, State Route 823, also known as the Southern Ohio Veterans Memorial Highway or “Portsmouth By-Pass” in Scioto County, has brought a resurgence of economic prosperity into our region. State Route 823 was the first Ohio PPP (public private partnership) Highway project and has proven to be beneficial in many ways including opening large swaths of Scioto County to economic development which has created inertia in many economic sectors. This progress has poured over into adjacent counties. In my opinion, the Interstate 73/74 extension into Ohio would act in the same manner but on a much larger scale. The communities the highway would touch would benefit economically in many ways.

Scioto County & Lawrence County Governments have been working very hard to foster economic prosperity in the shared Haverhill/Franklin Furnace Industrial Corridor. Working alongside JobsOhio and other partners, we have poured millions of dollars into creating vital

infrastructure to attract new job creators into this industrial zone. We have a strong alliance in our region to capitalize on the gains realized by the construction of this road project. JobsOhio will tell you logistics is very important to the site selectors and job creators of today. With our ample infrastructure, modern rail lines, and access to the Ohio River, the availability of interstate access would put Southern Ohio in a place of strategic advantage and further propel Ohio forward as a job creator.

Our unemployment numbers, while improving, still remain among the highest in Ohio. We truly believe the presence of an interstate in our region would create jobs and reduce the burden of State and Federal social safety net programs to citizens in our part of the state. A win/win for all involved.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer testimony in regards to this hopeful project. I am available to discuss this project further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Bryan K. Davis

Chairman, Scioto County Commissioners