



Ohio Senate

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Committees:

Transportation – Vice Chair
Energy & Public Utilities
Workforce and Higher Education
Small Business and Economic Opportunity
UC Modernization and Improvement Council
Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission
Ohio Rail Development Commission

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26th Senate District

SPONSOR TESTIMONY

Date: 6/01/21

RE: Sponsor Testimony on SB 162

Chairwoman Kunze, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you regarding SB 162, which would modernize the ability of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission to implement electronic tolling and toll evasion procedures.

The Commission's current tolling collection system is approaching the end of its useful life, and is in need of an upgrade. In a survey of 14,000 customers conducted by the Commission, 89% supported the removal of toll gates in favor of electronic tolling. To that end this legislation would grant the Turnpike authority similar to ODOT's (in this regard). In fact, in the 130th GA, ODOT requested the same changes with regards to potentially tolling the Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati.

This legislation would allow the Commission to perform open road and electronic tolling, work with the BMV to require vehicle owners to pay delinquent tolls before they can register their vehicle, establish a system to contest unpaid tolls or fees, sets the standards for determining liability of unpaid tolls, and ensures that personal constituent information is protected.

This moves Ohio ahead in terms of being an easy-to-access states. As you roll through Pennsylvania or Pittsburgh, you can stop at some of the rest stops in some of these smaller counties in Ohio. These rest stops are huge sales-tax collectors for these areas.

Chairwoman Kunze, members of the Committee, again thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on SB 162, I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.