



June 14, 2021

Stephanie Kunze, Chair
Bill Reineke, Vice Chair
Nickie J. Antonio, Ranking Minority Member

Senate Transportation Committee
Re: Proponent testimony for Senate Bill 162

Dear Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber represents 2,400 members who employ 150,000 residents throughout the Mahoning Valley. We work with government officials to advocate for economic development policies that help make the Valley an ideal place to live, learn, work, and play.

The Ohio Turnpike, which already plays a pivotal role throughout the Valley with seven exits over a 30-mile stretch, is undergoing a complete technological modernization that can connect to the Valley's logistics corridors. This legislation will save time and money for those who work, invest, visit, and live in our region.

The current Toll Collection System is 12 years old and nearing the end of its useful lifespan. A 2017 comprehensive study indicated 89 percent of drivers supported the removal of toll gates to allow drivers to travel through toll plazas without stopping. The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission's new Open Road Tolling collection system will allow customers with an E-ZPass transponder to drive from Pennsylvania to Indiana (and vice-versa) without having to stop or slow down. Customers will still have the ability to pay with cash or a credit card.

The Commission estimates a savings of more-than a quarter billion dollars over 30 years due to increased usage of E-ZPass and Automatic Toll Payment Machines, especially from those traveling from out of state.

Senate Bill 162 would provide common sense mechanisms for the Commission to preform open road and electronic tolling, work with the BMV to require vehicle owners to pay delinquent tolls before they can register their vehicles, establish a system to contest unpaid tolls or fees, set the standards for determining liability of unpaid tolls, and ensures that personal constituent information is protected during the collection of tolls.

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber asks this committee to favorably report SB 162. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan McNaughton".

RYAN MCNAUGHTON, M.Ed., M.A., *Vice President, Government Affairs*

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