



**State Representative Derek Merrin
District 47**

**House Bill 96 – Sponsor Testimony
Transportation Committee
October 6, 2021**

Chair Kunze, Vice-Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, and Transportation Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for House Bill 96. This legislation provides owners' of non-commercial trailers the option to purchase a permanent registration. Ohio law already enables commercial trailers a permanent registration option. House Bill 96 simply mirrors that provision to apply to non-commercial trailers. Many states, like Michigan and West Virginia, provide this option to their residents. The proposed permanent option fee would be 8 times the cost of the annual fee.

There are over 600,000 non-commercial trailers registered, but there are many unregistered trailers because of the costs and hassle of registration. By allowing for a smooth, one-time process, many unregistered trailers would be encouraged to register, thus increasing compliance and bringing in additional revenue upfront. Some trailer owners would save money if their trailer life span extended beyond eight years. Furthermore, a permanent registration option will decrease lines at the BMV due to trailer owners not having to come in to re-register their trailers every 1-5 years. This would save time for trailer owners, and reduce the lines for all Ohioans at the BMV.

Noncommercial trailers are used to transport boats, jet skis, motorcycles, ATV/UTV's, fifth-wheel pop-up campers, dog kennels, and for a variety of outdoor uses. House Bill 96 has garnered the support Ohio Conservation Federation, Ducks Unlimited, and Sportsmen's Alliance because it makes it easier for their members to enjoy Ohio's outdoor recreational opportunities. I hope to have the committee's support and welcome any questions you may have.