

Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 269
Finance Committee
Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Good morning Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 269, a bill that would appropriate funds for subdivision road maintenance repairs.

As legislators of this great state, it is our job to ensure the security of all Ohioans. We are struggling with road maintenance, and I strongly believe this runs counter to all that we are trying to accomplish here in Ohio. In 2017, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) graded the nation's overall infrastructure at a D+. While Ohio fares slightly better than the national average, we still have our own challenges. Nearly a quarter of the roads in metropolitan areas are in poor condition and cost Ohio motorists \$3.5 billion each year in additional vehicle repairs and maintenance.

This legislation would provide our local governments with \$30 million of additional revenue for much needed road maintenance repairs. If we want Ohio to succeed, it is important to consider factors that inhibit our competitive edge, and the current state of our roads is one of those factors. The ASCE states in their report that Ohio's deteriorating infrastructure impedes our ability to successfully compete in a 21st century economy.

The good news is the condition of our roads is a problem that we can solve. This piece of legislation is a step in the right direction. A delay in these investments only escalates the long-term costs and risks for Ohioans. Ohio can no longer afford for the legislature to ignore its aging infrastructure.

Chairman Oelslager and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention and consideration of this important issue. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee might have.