



Lake Township Trustees

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December 15, 2020

The Honorable Larry Obhof, President
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr. President:

We, the Trustees of Lake Township, (Wood County), are writing to express our strong support for HB 539, which recently passed in the Ohio House of Representatives by an overwhelming, bi-partisan margin. The bill would allow township police to have jurisdiction in certain circumstances on Interstate highways that pass-through townships.

We understand the year and the current session of the state legislature is soon coming to a close, and you have many bills before you awaiting passage. The most important thing about HB 539 is that it greatly impacts the safety of Ohio citizens, especially those driving on Interstate highways in the above mentioned areas.


We have been working with Representative Haraz Ghanbari, the chief sponsor of the bill, for some time to get this legislation passed. What makes this time different from previous attempts is the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association has withdrawn their objections to the legislation.

We already respond to Interstate 280 at the request of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, but passage of the bill would aid our efforts in the enforcement of drug laws and laws pertaining to human trafficking, both of which have been huge problems in our area. We have multiple truck stops in our township along Interstate 280.

Law enforcement intelligence shows illegal drugs and human trafficking are rampant on this highway and OSHP is trying desperately to control the problem, but they cannot do it alone. It makes no sense to have additional law enforcement personnel available to combat these issues but to continue to tie their hands behind their backs, thwarting efforts to help Ohioans protect themselves.

We sincerely appreciate your support for the passage of HB 539. If we can be of any assistance in this endeavor, please contact us at 419-838-6536.


Jeffery A. Pettit
Trustee


Richard P. Welling
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