

93<sup>rd</sup> House District

Vinton County

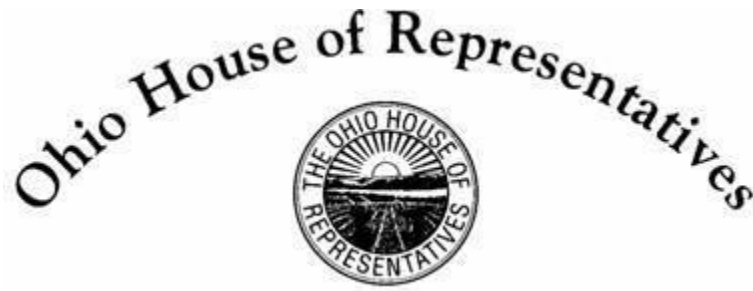
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Committees

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Transportation  
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Public Utilities

**Jason Stephens**  
State Representative

Chair Stoltzfus, Vice Chair Dean and Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the Infrastructure and Rural Development Committee, thank you for the giving me the opportunity to provide Sponsor Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 31 today.

This resolution urges Governor DeWine and the Director of Transportation to provide for the extension of I-73 and I-74 into Ohio.

Ohio currently has eight primary interstate highways running through it. It is imperative that we improve mobility and connectivity for goods, services and our workforce to all regions of the state and to have easy access to these interstate highways.

The Federal Highway Administration has plans to connect the south central portion of Ohio to the Interstate Highway System via the extension of Interstates 73 and 74.

The extension of I-73 in Ohio will be upgraded through route 52 between Huntington, West Virginia and Portsmouth. U.S. Route 23 through Columbus to I-75 near Findlay will be upgraded.

This legislation proposes that I-74 is to be extended from Cincinnati to Portsmouth. The extensions of I-73 and I-74 through Ohio will allow further development opportunities that will economically benefit millions of Ohioans.

I will conclude with this: We are Ohio. We do big things. Let's continue to do big things.

This resolution is a challenge. A challenge to do big things; however, it is also a challenge, that when completed will result in even bigger things for the people of our great state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, I am happy to take any questions.