

Infrastructure and Rural Development Committee
Chairman Reggie Stoltzfus

Proponent Testimony on HCR31
Written Testimony of Brian Dicken
Vice President, Advocacy & Strategic Initiatives
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

October 13, 2021

Chairman Stoltzfus, Vice Chairman Dean, Ranking Member Brown and Members of the House Infrastructure and Rural Development Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 31. The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce supports the extension of I-73 and I-74 into Ohio.

The Toledo region is within a day's drive of more than 100 million customers in the United States and Canadian markets. It is necessary to maintain and further enhance an efficient transportation system to move people, goods and materials. An efficient transportation system is key to promoting economic development in the region. The expansion on I-74 and particularly I-73 into Ohio will assist in reaching markets in the southeastern United States for the efficient flow of goods and materials.

Further, we remain supportive and applaud the current efforts of the Ohio Department of Transportation to improve access to the central Ohio region through the Route 23 Connect program. As you may know, Route 23 Connect is a corridor study to determine the feasibility of creating a free-flow connection between Toledo and Columbus. This corridor currently experiences congestion, unpredictable travel times, and high crash rates. This is an integral part of the I-73 corridor into Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration.