



HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Proponent Testimony,
HB 96, March 23rd, 2021

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Ohio Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity (AFP). As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the country, AFP is driving long-term solutions to some of the country's biggest problems. Our organization, and its thousands of activists across Ohio, are dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing or reducing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities. Accordingly, I am here to express support for House Bill 96.

Simply stated, HB 96 would create a new option for Ohioans to permanently register a noncommercial trailer. Proposed public policies regarding personal property that would afford owners more flexibility and options to comply with government requirements will always be met favorably by AFP. Under the bill, should they choose to do so, property owners could pay a permanent registration fee eight times greater than the current annual registration fee (which is comprised of eight times the annual registration tax, eight times the annual BMV registration fee, eight times the amount of any local vehicle motor vehicle taxes, combined), plus the one-time \$5 deputy registrar/BMV service fee.

As Representative Merrin pointed out during his sponsor testimony, this is not a new idea. More than a dozen states, including several of Ohio's neighbors, already have permanent registration laws for noncommercial trailers on the books. The best aspect of this bill is that it is entirely voluntary, so Ohioans who choose to take advantage of a more costly one-time registration may do so, but trailer owners who may not want to incur that cost are free to

continue registering annually if that makes the most financial sense for them. Policymakers should continue to examine ways to make compliance smoother and more efficient for citizens, and HB 96 is a straightforward, good-government solution.

AFP thanks Rep. Merrin for his sponsorship of HB 96. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to offer testimony today. I'm happy to do my best to answer any questions the committee might have.

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.