

Ohio House of Representatives
Economic and Workforce Development Committee
October 14, 2023

Written Testimony of Thomas Helderman

Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the consideration of this written testimony.

My name is Thomas H. Helderman, and I am a resident of the City of Strongsville, Ohio. My HOME, my family's HOME, is the first HOME in ALL the proposed interchange designs in the County of Cuyahoga that will be destroyed in this proposed unfounded project.

This proposed project, and now this underhanded supposed new law, is taking away everything the American dream is supposed to be about. If you work hard, sacrifice, and invest in your HOME, eventually you will get to the end of the rainbow where you will be able to relax and retire as you look back at what you have been a part of building together as a family.

Taking away "our own slice of heaven", as we call it, is not what I believe our country would intend to do to hundreds of honest hard-working taxpayers, our neighbors as well as me, an honorably discharged veteran.

My wife and I have raised five children in our HOME. Please notice I said, "HOME" and not house, because a house is just a structure with four walls and a roof, whereas a HOME is a dwelling that you create memories, good times, and love while raising a family. We have been in our home for 24 years.

The proposed interchange will devastate two wholesome communities, as well as the State of Ohio's budget. After it's all said and done, you are looking at hundreds of millions of dollars that will have been spent for a matter of saving just a few minutes of sitting in traffic for a very small percentage of residents. That is that fiscally irresponsible and not reasonable, and as a taxpayer I say no.

This COMMITTEE has the RESPONSIBILITY to do the RIGHT THING for all the State's residents. I ask that you take my testimony into consideration and support HOUSE BILL 276 to REPEAL the Ohio Revised code 5501.60. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit my written testimony.