



Representative Beth Lear  
Representative Marilyn John

To: Chair McClain and the Ohio House Transportation Committee

From: Reps. Beth Lear and Marilyn John

Date: January 16, 2024

Re: Sponsor Testimony for HB 330, the William "Bill" Burgett Memorial Highway

Chair McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to request your support for House Bill 330, the William "Bill" Burgett Memorial Highway on State Route 13 between Lexington Road to the north and Beckley Road to the south on the western side of Fredericktown.

This road naming has been in the works for years. The people of Knox County, especially Fredericktown, have a deep respect for Mr. Burgett and his family. His influence, and that of his business, Kokosing Construction Company, is immeasurable. Although the impact of Kokosing goes far beyond Richland and Knox Counties where Bill spent most of his youth, these areas and the people who live in them have been deeply and positively impacted by the family, their business, the jobs provided, friendships built, work ethic shared and philanthropy provided by Bill Burgett.

Here's just a snippet of Bill's amazing American life in his own words:

"I am indebted to my ancestors, the Burgetts and the Boyds, for my inherited nature. I was also fortunate to have had the right parents for bringing me into the world. They provided me with a name and my first knowledge, which are what my life was built on. My upbringing was blended with doing the chores right, telling the truth and learning God's will for us and how we can best serve Him.

My parents, George and Lenora Burgett, were both school teachers. They not only taught me how to read and write, they also understood that I needed something more to keep my mind busy. Tinker toys and a small erector set kept me occupied when I was 3-4 years old. Then came a tool box, hammer, square, saw and vice when I was five. At the age of six, I received a larger erector set with an electric motor to drive the things I build. Then

one year we had a barn builder construct a milking parlor – he became a different kind of teacher for me. I came to realize that I was very interested in spending all the time I could helping him. I discovered early on that I enjoyed putting things together, building things and working with the tools that were required. Throughout my life, I increased my knowledge – information that helped generate my thinking abilities.”

As Bill continues to give a glimpse into his history and inspiration, it is riddled with gratitude for those who taught him, mentors, friends, his church and his family. As he grew so did Kokosing, starting as a small construction business in Fredericktown and becoming a third-generation powerhouse working projects here at home, from Hawaii to New York and even the West Indies, embracing change combined with stability, allowing the company to thrive, employ and build America and beyond. Bill Burgett is the epitome of the American Dream and wonderful example for Ohioans of all generations who want to build things, serve their communities and live well. That kind of legacy is worthy of recognition and we humbly ask for your support of HB 330.