



## OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Ron Amstutz, Chair  
Ohio Finance Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 114 Transportation Budget

Dear Chairman Amstutz:

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I am writing to raise two issues with House Bill 114, the state's transportation budget. One issue is the lack of language in the bill to appropriate funds to continue the State Capital Improvements Program and the Clean Ohio Program in 2011. The second issue is the funding scheme for the State Highway Patrol.

The OTA is concerned that HB 114 does not include an appropriation to fund Program Year 25 for the State Capital Improvement Program. This program provides funding to local governments to assist with road and bridge improvements, among other infrastructure needs. The appropriation amount that is sought is \$150 million and if this money is not appropriated, projects slated for the upcoming 2011 construction season will not be funded. The OTA urges the Finance Committee to amend HB 114 to include the \$150 million appropriation.

Additionally, the OTA strongly encourages you to include authorization for the state to issue Clean Ohio bonds in the Ohio FY2012-2013 transportation budget bill for FY2012. Bond sales would support the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, Green Space Conservation Program, and the Trails Fund. All of these programs have benefitted township residents across the state. The program has leveraged private investments to create a total statewide economic impact of approximately \$2.6 billion. The Clean Ohio Program enjoys strong, bipartisan support from the state's voters as evidenced by its renewal in 2008 and the OTA urges the Committee to authorize the issuance of Clean Ohio bonds.

The second issue of concern to the OTA is the adequate funding of the State Highway Safety Fund. Currently HB 114 increases title fees by \$10 to help fund the Highway Patrol. The funding of the Highway Patrol has been an issue since 2004 when there was a shift in reliance on gas tax revenues to other dedicated funding sources. By shifting the Patrol away from gas tax revenue, state and local governments, including townships, would have more money to maintain Ohio's road system.

Townships maintain 41,387 miles of road in Ohio. All told, townships receive about 1.9 cents or 6.8% of the total 28 cents per gallon motor fuel tax to maintain the 41,387 miles of township roads. Should the Committee alter the proposed funding method and dedicate gas tax revenue to fund the Patrol, this will ultimately reduce the revenue townships would receive to maintain those miles of road. The OTA urges the Committee to pursue an alternative funding source to the gas tax. In that vein, it may be constructive to refer to the proposed recommendations of the Task Force for Funding Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Thank you for your consideration of these two issues. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Heidi M. Fought, OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, at (614) 863-0045 or by e-mail at [fought@ohiotownships.org](mailto:fought@ohiotownships.org).

Sincerely,

Matthew J. DeTemple  
Executive Director

MJD:hf

"Serving Ohio since 1928"

