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Dayton, OH 45402-2400
daytonchamber.org

March 6, 2019

The Honorable Larry Householder
Ohio Speaker of the House
77 S. High St., 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Scott Oelslager
Finance Chair, Ohio House
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Speaker Householder and Chairman Oelslager:

I am contacting you today in support of the Governor's proposed gas tax increase and the House proposed alternative fuel vehicle fee and transit funding.

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce represents over 2,300 employers, which employ almost 200,000 people, in a 9 county region in southwest Ohio. The Dayton region has recently experienced a resurgence in our local economy and business investments. To continue this positive trend, we must have the right public policies in place that support this continued growth.

Funding of Ohio's roadways and bridges is critical for Ohio to remain a safe, business friendly and economically competitive state. One of the great advantages of Ohio, is our safe, efficient and well maintained infrastructure. This is never more evident than when you drive over our state line and notice the immediate difference in our roadways. Efficient and safe Ohio roadways are critical to supporting workforce, attracting companies and supporting our thriving industries that rely on this infrastructure.

As surrounding states are considering significant gas tax increases that total as much as 45 cents per gallon, Governor DeWine's proposed 18 cent increase is modest, it will meet the needs of our aging infrastructure and support future economic growth. Additionally, the alternative fuel vehicle fee proposed by the House is critical to ensuring equitable funding of all vehicles that are using Ohio's roadways and bridges.

As the Vice Chair of the Transportation Review and Advisory Council (TRAC), I can say from first-hand experience that the TRAC had **\$0** in funding in 2018 for major new construction and our 2019 meetings have been cancelled due to lack of major new funding. This lack of funding constitutes a significant crisis for ODOT to be able to support economic development and evolving infrastructure needs. While I appreciate the Ohio House's commitment to an increase, I feel a responsibility to make it known that the 10.7 cents increase in Sub HB 62, will allow for **NO** new funding commitments on transportation projects in Ohio for the next 10 years. This

means there will be **\$0** that can be committed to new projects through TRAC, which will directly impact ODOT's ability to meet the evolving infrastructure needs of our state and our future business community.

To keep the Dayton region economically competitive and our roadways safe, we have a list of vital new Dayton area infrastructure projects that need funded today. If the appropriate revenues are not identified, these Dayton area projects would be in jeopardy and it could directly impact our region's economic development. Infrastructure funding is a critical component of job retention and attraction and Ohio must have the tools to deliver.

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests full funding of our infrastructure needs by supporting the 18 cents per gallon amount proposed by the Administration, including the House proposed alternative fuel vehicle fee and the transit funding increase.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Kershner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Kershner
Executive Vice President
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

Vice Chair
Transportation Review and Advisory Council

Cc: Ohio House Finance Committee
Dayton area House delegation