



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTRAL OFFICE • 1980 WEST BROAD STREET • COLUMBUS, OH 43223
JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR • JERRY WRAY, DIRECTOR

June 30, 2011

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
Attn: Kevin Hoggatt
338 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

On behalf of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), I am writing to you today in support of the State Highway Flexibility Act that has been proposed as House Resolution 1585 by Congressman Lankford. We commend and thank you for the time, energy and focus you have given to the highly important issue of transportation funding at the federal level. At a time of financial uncertainty in our nation, we must create reliable and effective solutions to the funding issues that involve our nation's infrastructure.

Managing our own gas tax dollars on the state level without any federal interference would allow ODOT to make decisions without burdensome federal mandates or laws that come attached with the Highway Trust Fund. Along with allowing for more flexibility and innovative funding options for states that opt out, the bill will also allow for historical donor states like Ohio to attain more equity in the federal transportation funding process.

With the very real possibility of flat or even reduced federal funding levels for future state transportation budgets, Congress should seek opportunities such as this to empower states with the ability to more quickly and efficiently implement of transportation projects and improvements. I trust that most states would agree with this favorable and much needed piece of legislation.

I again appreciate your commitment to these vital matters and ask that you accept this letter as a statement of my utmost support for the State Highway Flexibility Act. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Jerry Wray
Director

cc: Congressman James Lankford
Ohio Delegation to Congress