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## HARAZ N. GHANBARI

State Representative | Ohio House District 3

May 31, 2022

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor of Ohio  
77 South High Street, 30th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

A year ago, we were inspired to learn a vital connection between northwest Ohio and central Ohio was under development when the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments came together to finance a comprehensive study. I remain deeply concerned that ODOT hastily, and without careful consultation with key stakeholders, announced a premature end to this study.

The timeline of the study required cost estimates to be provided in the summer of 2022, additional public engagement in the fall of the same year and a full recommendation being made in 2023. The collapse of the process strips the public debate in which this issue rightfully deserves. In addition to the safety concerns of the current disjointed Route 23 corridor in Delaware County, the lack of a free-flowing connection between northwest Ohio and central Ohio generates more questions than answers. Travelers from other metro cities in Ohio heading to Columbus pass through zero stoplights; however, those coming from Toledo must travel through an astounding 38. This matter, unless addressed, will not remedy itself but will only worsen with additional population growth spurred by economic development.

I respectfully urge you to direct ODOT to immediately resume the study to seek a long-term solution to the safety and commerce concerns we know exist. There is no doubt the answer will involve significant costs; however, we know this will be a generational investment that will pay dividends for years to come. I look forward to working with you on achieving the desired objective — a viable path linking our communities in northwest Ohio to the greater Columbus metro area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Haraz N. Ghanbari".

Haraz N. Ghanbari  
Member of the Ohio House of Representatives