



Governor Mike DeWine
30th Floor; Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor,

I write this letter to you asking for help for citizens I represent. The conference committee report for the transportation budget bill, HB 62, contains language which hurts local governments' ability to govern themselves. Specifically, the language inserted by the Senate, once again penalizes local governments who use red light cameras to control traffic, promote safety and protect the welfare of its citizens. The conference committee language would require local communities, which maintain the red light cameras, to provide information on the amount of fines collected by municipalities to the state's tax director. Then, that amount of local government funds would be reduced by the amount, dollar for dollar, collected from the red light camera fines.

As you know, the unique power of home rule communities to make laws that do not conflict with state laws is sanctioned by the Ohio Constitution. It provides for local communities to specifically craft solutions to local problems. Plainly put, the City of Toledo has had and continues to have serious traffic issues with our drivers. According to Chief George Krall one of the core missions for law enforcement is safe streets through traffic control. He told me that the red light cameras have helped to reduce the incidents of high speed crashes. Unfortunately, some drivers speed in excess of 40-50 mph over the speed limit which often times lead to fatal car crashes. With Toledo Police being short 90 officers, the red light camera is another tool the police has to get motorists to slow down.

Additionally, the City of Toledo has used the red light cameras in a responsible and democratic manner. The administrative process allows for any driver who receives a ticket the opportunity to present evidence, before two licensed attorneys, who are retired police officers. This method allows the motorist to appear and show evidence that may result in a reduced fine or no fine.

Lastly, there was a recent article in the Toledo Blade describing a citizen-led petition action to have the red light cameras removed by the vote of the people. In addition to The Blade publishing an editorial in opposition to this action, many residents took to social media to express their concern for public safety without the cameras. I was surprised by many comments that suggested motorists should not be upset when they are fined for breaking the law.



Thus I encourage you to veto this legislative overreach that threatens the safety and security of those who use our roadways and further erodes the long-standing tradition of home rule in the Buckeye State. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information. I thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Paula Hicks-Hudson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "H".

Paula Hicks-Hudson
State Representative
Ohio House District 44