

STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

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COMMITTEES
Roads and Transportation- Chair
Ways and Means
Rules and Legislative Procedures

Dear I-69 Ohio River Crossing Team,

I write to you today as a lifelong SW Indiana resident; a wife and mother; an engineer; a State Representative; and as Chair of the Indiana House Roads and Transportation Committee. On behalf of our regional community, thank you for the work you have all done to gather community input and to create the DEIS with the Central Alternative as the preferred route.

I support the Central Corridor Alternative 1B and applying tolls *only* to the new Interstate bridge. This will continue to create the critical link between Michigan and Memphis and beyond all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. Kentucky and Indiana have worked for years to establish the I69 route through our states and to build this river crossing. Frankly, it cannot happen soon enough.

The Central Corridor 1B is the best option for a number of reasons. First, it will have the lowest total cost. It will also result in minimizing any negative impact on my constituents and the residents of the region during construction. I was pleased to see the DEIS report conclude that the route would have the least impact on our area's environment and also on the businesses and residents who live, play and work near the construction corridor. Most importantly, it will be a tremendous asset to our region and a fundamental key to our future vitality.

I'm thrilled to think about the economic opportunities that will be created by the new Interstate 69 bridge. With the median center of the United States' population in our region, this interstate bridge will provide a valuable north/south link for the logistics network, positively impacting all the industries in our region and beyond.

The new interstate bridge will be actively used by our businesses to provide efficient, safe access to move goods into and out of their businesses. And for travelers moving through the region, the interstate will be the chosen route for safe and efficient travel. By preserving both of the current Hwy. 41 bridges without tolls we can ensure area residents that may cross the river daily for work, school or to access critical services like healthcare have a toll free option for daily commuting.

While the DEIS proposed to keep only one half of the existing bridge pair open, I support Central Corridor 1B which keeps both spans open. We have known for a long time that we need redundant bridges available for when maintenance or accidents close a span. We have also heard from farmers regarding their need for a two-lane, non-interstate bridge to move farm equipment

between their farms located on both sides of the river. At a minimum, I encourage you to move forward with building the new Interstate bridge and keep both existing spans open and operable and reserve making a final decision on closure until we see the traffic patterns and evaluate the region's needs further.

We know that our current bridges leave us at risk of being forced to travel miles out of the way in the event of any significant earthquake, since they are not built to withstand a quake of any magnitude. The loss of both spans – or even just one – would be catastrophic to the region and our economy. I urge you to push forward with the final planning processes and commence construction of the new bridge as soon as possible. Our currently limited cross-river corridor is no longer able to handle our regional needs. It is very congested and has a high incidence of collisions and other safety issues.

Thank you, again, for your work on this important project which will positively affect our region for generations. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you as you take this project across the finish line. I look forward to congratulating you on your efforts at the groundbreaking!

Honored to Serve,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holli Sullivan".

Holli Sullivan
State Representative
District 78