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Testimony
House Appropriations Committee
March 7, 2016
on HB 2503 and SB 335
by Michael Johnston, Economic Lifelines Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Chairman and Committee members, I am Michael Johnston, Chief Executive Officer for Economic Lifelines, a statewide coalition organized over thirty years ago to promote transportation improvements.

HB 2503 was referred back to this Committee because of confusion on the House floor during consideration of an amendment being offered by Representative Peck. The Peck amendment sought to use the highway fund, rather than increases in vehicle registration fees, to pay for changes made in the bill. Our organization is opposed to using the highway fund, once again, as the paying agent to fund the objectives of the original bill or Representative Peck's amendment. During Senate consideration of SB 335, an amendment using the highway fund similar to Representative Peck's was offered. Thankfully, that amendment was defeated.

Though I know it is a bit unusual to testify against something that is not presently in bills being heard by the Committee, I wanted to make certain that the Committee is aware of our views on amendments of that nature that may be considered if the chairman elects to work either bill.

Thank you for your consideration!