

State of Indiana

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Senate

Committees:
Finance, Chair
Taxation Subcommittee, Chair
Commerce & Consumer Affairs
Utility & Regulatory Affairs
Ethics, R.M.

January 30, 2004

Michael Grovak
Lochmueller & Associates
6200 Vogel Rd.
Evansville, IN 47115

Dear Mr. Grovak,

The current presentation of the I-69 routing does not make a lot of sense. The northern terminus bisects a well populated urban township in Marion County, and the plan eliminates cross-township traffic in Perry Township south of I-465. School busses will need to travel I-465 and go miles out of their way to take children to Rosa Parks Elementary School. The new fire station that is scheduled to be built by Perry Township east of State Road 37 will not be able to make timely runs west of the new I-69. If busses and fire trucks cannot navigate the new road, it would obviously be a problem for the thousands of residents that live to the west of the proposed route.

Equally disturbing as the lack of access to the west is the elimination of about \$100 million in assessed valuation that will be plowed under with the roadway. That loss of assessed valuation will result in a property tax increase of approximately one dollar. Obviously this law of unintended consequences does affect the other 90,000 residents of Perry Township.

No serious consideration for an alternate route has been made by either your firm or Bryon Nichol of the Indiana Department of Transportation. The original routing was unexpectedly disclosed to the residents of Perry Township without previous public discussion. Various conflicting statements have been made about what led to the ultimate decision.

I am asking, and recommending, that the process of going forward with plans for I-69 be halted or at least slowed down. The residents of Perry Township, White River Township, and Johnson County deserve more information from their governmental officials. Steamrollers are for construction and should not be used to suppress public opinion.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Borst, D.V. M.
State Senator

LMB/als