Neighbor,

As a member of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, I take great pride in our work to ensure there are safe roadways for travel and commerce, that there are boundless new job opportunities and that we are developing a workforce that is skilled and qualified to fill in-demand jobs.

Over a number of weeks we have taken a hard look at a very important piece of legislation called the Transportation Budget. Last General Assembly, this was a nearly $8 billion investment that funded the construction and maintenance of the state's transportation system.

Currently, the most hotly debated issue in the bill is the Governor's proposal for an 18 cent increase in the state's gas tax, which the Ohio House reduced to 10.7 cents in their version. As we continue to debate this issue in the Senate, I encourage you to send along your thoughts and feedback to Rulli@OhioSenate.gov. You can follow along with the proceedings by visiting the Senate's website here, or watch the live-stream or archived footage of committee hearings here.

Sincerely,

Senator Michael Rulli
Senate District 33
www.OhioSenate.gov/Rulli
Fighting for an Additional $100 Million to Improve Ohio School Facilities

Maintaining a healthy and safe learning environment is one of the most important factors for students' success when they go to school each day. As a former Leetonia School Board member, I understand the difficulty schools can face to come up with the necessary dollars to maintain their buildings.

That is why the first bill I introduced as your state senator will add an additional $100 million in general obligation bonds through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission for the renovation and construction of safe school buildings across Ohio. Identified as one of the Ohio Senate's top priorities, I am hopeful it will receive swift passage.

Learn More

Leetonia Student Council Visits the Ohio Statehouse
I recently had the privilege of having local students from Leetonia High School and Junior High School who have interest in our democracy and unique system of government join me in Columbus to learn more about the lawmaking process.

With a full committee and Session schedule, they picked a good day to experience the hustle and bustle of Columbus. I hope they enjoyed their visit to our beautiful capitol, and look forward to seeing them again soon.

### Making Government More Efficient and Transparent

I recently introduced legislation that will ensure greater transparency and promote better efficiency in local elections by allowing local candidates to file campaign finance reports electronically.

March 10-16 was [Sunshine Week](https://www.sunshineweek.org), which is marked by panel discussions, workshops and other events around the country about using and understanding public records law. This bill will be an important step to offer the same resources at the local level that have been used for decades by our state officials.

### Resources to Report Suspected Human Trafficking and Prostitution
Simply put, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people are exploited and controlled by others. This can take many different forms, but oftentimes it is found through prostitution and sexual exploitation.

Recently, there were eight individuals who were arrested for their role in human trafficking right here in our community. This is unacceptable, and why I co-sponsored Senate Bill 5, which aims to increase penalties for repeat offenders found guilty of promoting prostitution, or if an individual is convicted of drug trafficking in addition to promoting prostitution.

Contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 — or Text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733).

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In the News


The Review: [Rulli to speak at Prayer Breakfast](https://www.review.jmi.edu/news/sen-rulli-to-speak-at-prayer-breakfast/)


Senator Michael Rulli represents the 33rd District in the Ohio Senate, which encompasses Columbiana and Mahoning counties. Learn more at www.OhioSenate.gov/Rulli.