



STATE SENATOR
EDNA BROWN

11TH DISTRICT

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Senator Brown's Letter to the Editor in the Toledo Blade

"I am disturbed by Governor Kasich's plans for the Ohio Turnpike. Initially, the Governor pledged to use revenues from leasing the turnpike for transportation projects in Northwest Ohio. Now, he is unwilling to commit the generated funds to transportation projects at all. This is a red flag for all Ohioans who deserve to know what the money will be used for.

"It is no secret that privatizing the turnpike could lead to job cuts. Toledo is already set to lose 700 jobs with the departure of BAX Global. We can't afford to lose anymore with another bad deal for Ohio.

"Governor Kasich says that we need "to get out of this regional mentality," but, it's Toledo-area residents who have paid the tolls since 1955. The Governor should be able to ensure that we will continue to benefit from the Turnpike's profits. Today, we enjoy a well-maintained turnpike. But how do we know that a private company will not skimp on maintenance or hike tolls just to maximize profits?

"*The Toledo Blade* reported that in 2006, the 157-mile Indiana Toll Road was leased to a private operator for \$3.8 billion. Since then, cash-paid tolls have nearly doubled from \$4.65 to \$8.80. With constant unemployment throughout Northern Ohio, how can the Governor expect residents to be able to afford to get from point A to point B?

"We can not trust a proposal that subjects Ohio to long-term consequences just for short-term gain by leasing the turnpike for decades to come, especially without knowing where the money is going."

State Senator Edna Brown