harry 18/13/01



December 10, 2001

Mr. Mark A. Depugh 4239 US 23 South Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Dear Mr. Depugh:

Thank you for your letter requesting Deer Crossing signs on US 23 in the Rozelle Creek area. We checked the accidents in that area, but found only a few accidents involving animal hits. We then got in contact with the Scioto Trail State Park. They also were not aware of this area as having a lot of accidents involving deer. Though they did say that there is a lot of deer present in that area.

Since there seems to not be one location were the deer are crossing, we have decided to install a deer crossing sign on US 23 Southbound in the vicinity of Massieville and another one on US 23 Northbound in the vicinity of the Rozelle Creek US 23 intersection.

Please contact me at 773-2691, extension 208, if you have further questions concerning this matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this issue.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Baird, P.E.

District 9 Studies Engineer

c: V. Wilson, Armstrong, Mitten, Hill, Chaffin, Wetzel, file

Date: October 23, 2001

Greg Baird Transportation District 9 650 Eastern Ave Chillicothe, Oh 45601

Re: Deer Related Accidents along 23 South

Dear Mr. Baird,

My name is Mark Depugh, I live at 4239 US Route 23 South, and have lived there for 14 years. Over the last few years I have noticed many highway accidents involving deer. The accidents occurred on US Route 23 between my house (4239 US Route 23) and Rozelle Creek Road. Fortunately the accidents have resulted in the death of animals not people. In 1999 I personally recorded 32 deer related accidents (deer kills) in this area. In 2000, from October 1 to November 24, there were 16 deer hit, 9 of which were bucks, killed just south of Rozelle Creek Road's flashing light.

October and November is prime mating season for whitetail deer and their travel increases immensely. The deer cross U.S. Route 23 frequently just south of the softball field at the intersection of U.S. Route 23 and Rozelle Creek Road. I am already aware of 2 deer related accidents this past week. Eventually some innocent driver and family will swerve their vehicle to miss a deer and possibly lose their life.

I have talked with several neighbors, Nick & Linda Miller, James Oates and others about the multiple deer related accidents in this area. We are hoping you could have "Deer Crossing Signs" posted on North and Southbound 23 in the above-described area. This would at least alert drivers to be on the look out for deer crossing in this area.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Depugh

Mack & Depugh

Sacto Trail State Park 663-2125 Chis Choupenfaulf Park Manager Ang Wade / willife office More 772-1679 Office 740-594-2211

Ranger for Sciotor Trails
and the Wildlife Officer for
Ross County and they were
not aware of a high
accident deer location on
Ross 23 in this area. I
also talked to Jim Dobbins
He checked with Paul Corcoran and his highway
workers and they said they
have also f deel hit on
Ross 23 in general but they
couldn't confirm this
location to have more than
the rest of route 23.

Richard

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## OHIO RURAL STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT LISTING ROS 023R 0423 0500 00/00/1997 99/99/1999

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