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Benefits of Developing an App to Map the Potholes in West Virginia

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House Bill 2487

The purpose of this bill is to require the Commissioner of Highways to develop an app and a map that permits individuals to report, and keep track of, potholes on the roads and streets of the state

In Support of this Bill

I am in full support of this bill because it will help the numerous and dangerous pot holes to get filled in easier and bring STEM jobs to West Virginia.

(Monongalia County)

Allow Residents to Instantaneously Report Potholes

- The current process for getting a pothole filled in is very time consuming and tedious
- Isabella Gibson, a resident of Bunner Ridge, first had to look up the number and hours for the Department of Highways (DoH). Next, she had to wait on hold until someone picked up the phone and wrote down the location and magnitude of the pothole. Then hope the information was recorded correctly and then put into the system. And she still had to wait multiple months, not knowing if her request was even filed, to have the DoH come fill the giant pothole outside her house.
- This process can be completely avoided and save time and money for both the government and its residents.
- Residents will be able to report a pothole instantaneously from anywhere, at any time, thus taking the workload off government employees by having the information directly put into the system and allow residents to confirm that the information was put in correctly.

Provide a Visual Aid to Road Conditions

- This app will create markers on a map of the road system to indicate potholes
- So, where there are large clusters of markers the road conditions are very bad and where the markers are far apart the road is better
- Will allow the DoH to more efficiency allocate resources to the roads that need them the most, thus making the roads better overall
- Also, the markers will serve as a "checklist" that the DoH workers can mark off and serve as motivation to continue to fix the roads.
- Will provide road conditions to the residents on these roads.
- Greatly reduce the dangers of potholes because the public will be aware of their locations and be able to prepare and safely avoid them, instead of dangerously swerving at the last second, or running over them and damaging their cars.

Bring STEM Jobs to West Virginia

- Computer Scientists, Engineers, and other STEM jobs will be required to implement and maintain the app
- Will greatly boost West Virginia's economy due to the high salaries received by STEM workers
- The State government will benefit because higher salaries mean more tax income
- Also it will help reduce the "Brain drain" that West Virginia experiences, where STEM workers leave in search of better careers, because the STEM jobs will be right here in West Virginia.

Summary Statement / What is the Impact?

In conclusion this Bill would be extremely beneficial to the dangerous pothole epidemic that has taken hold of West Virginia, by allowing residents to instantaneously report potholes and increase both the public and DoH's awareness of the potholes. Which in turn will make the road system better, more efficient, safer to drive on. And in addition, reduce the West Virginia "Brain drain" by keeping STEM Careers in West Virginia.