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Senator George S. LeMieux
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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Comments to the Honorable Jason Fischer, Chair, and members of the House Government Operations Subcommittee regarding PCS for HB 1519 – Fleet Management

My name is Dominic M. Calabro and I am President and CEO of Florida TaxWatch, an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit, research institute & government watchdog that, for more than 42 years, has worked hard to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of Florida government and promote a fair and equitable system of taxation.

Florida TaxWatch is a strong proponent of centralized fleet management. In a 2011 report entitled “*Centralizing Vehicle Fleet Operations and Implementing Cost-Saving Strategies Could Reduce State Spending*,” OPPAGA found that, although DMS has authority to manage fleet operations, decisions concerning operations and management of state-owned vehicles are delegated to 30 state agencies. Permitting state agencies to independently manage their vehicle fleets resulted in poor overall management, unnecessary fleet expenditures, duplication of effort, and agencies spending resources on activities that are not central to their core missions. Consolidating the management of all state agency vehicles into one statewide fleet program with uniform standards for procurement, assignment, utilization, maintenance, and disposal would improve efficiency and could reduce costs by leveraging the state’s buying power.

A 2012 Florida TaxWatch report entitled “[Report and Recommendations of the Florida TaxWatch Government Cost Savings Task Force for Fiscal Year 2013-14](#),” echoed the OPPAGA findings and concluded that consolidating the management of the state’s vehicle fleet and allowing vehicles to be shared between agencies would promote more efficient allocation and reduce unnecessary costs.

In its June 2016 final report, the constitutionally mandated Government Efficiency Task Force recommended the Legislature consider consolidating management of all state agency vehicles into one statewide fleet program under one state agency (either DMS or FDOT) or third-party vendor with uniform standards for procurement, assignment, utilization, maintenance, and disposal of fleet vehicles. The major benefits of improved fleet management are significant cost savings and improved efficiency resulting from a reduction of unnecessary fleet expenditures and duplication of effort. The Government Efficiency Task Force estimated that the state could save more than \$10.9 million annually.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues as we continue to make Florida government more efficient and accountable to our taxpayers.