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Libertarian Party of LaPorte County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Libertarians Oppose Toll Road Plan

The Libertarian Party of LaPorte County (LPLP) has announced its opposition to Governor Mitch Daniels' plan to sell or lease the Indiana Toll Road. Chairman Doug Barnes said 'Libertarians fully support the concept of user-fee based toll roads. Libertarians also support well-thought privatization of government services. While Governor Daniels deserves credit for his outside-the-box thinking, LaPorte County Libertarians do not support the Major Screws plan he is advocating. Just like his handling of the Time Zone issue, the plan is severely flawed. It clearly will hurt LaPorte County and the other Northern Indiana counties that the Indiana Toll Road passes through. People need to wake up and make sure this gets stopped before the damage is done.'

Barnes questioned where the money from the Toll Road sale will go. "The Indiana Toll Road is already a 'Toll Road' and is paying for itself as well as generating excess revenue to fund projects in Northern Indiana. To us, it looks like the money will flow South to fund road construction projects around Indianapolis and in Southern Indiana. Making Northern Indiana Toll Road users pay for the Governor's pet projects is simply wrong. The governor should look at turning I-465, I-70, and I-74 into privatized toll roads before selling out Northern Indiana. Northern Indiana has to deal with the pollution and noise issues of the Indiana Toll Road every day. Therefore any revenue generated by the toll road should stay in Northern Indiana, not go to Indianapolis or some foreign country."

Vice Chairman Andrew Wolf also questioned why most interest in the Toll Road was coming from foreign companies. "It appears that most of the bidders interested in the Toll Road are foreign-based companies. While Libertarians support global free trade, one must question why Indiana small businesses and individual Hoosier Taxpayers probably cannot participate. The Libertarian Party has some innovative ideas on how they could privatize the Toll Road so that Northern Indiana Taxpayers could benefit by Toll Road privatization instead of getting screwed by it. The excess revenue that the Indiana Toll Road is generating could better be used to reduce Indiana's budget problems or should be applied toward underfunded pension obligations with which will need to be dealt. While Major Screws would generate some short term benefits for companies in Central Indiana, it clearly is not in the best long term interest of Indiana Taxpayers. From the Mayor, to the Governor, to the White House, the Republicans just do not get it. They simply do not understand the difference between free market Capitalism and Cronyism. Over the past five years, they have been as excessive with their wasteful spending as the Democrats were ever."

The Libertarian Party of LaPorte County meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at 510 Lincolnway in LaPorte. Clear thinking potential candidates are always welcome.

For additional information contact::

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