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98th House District

Tuscarawas and portions of Holmes
counties

Committees

Energy & Natural Resources- Chair
Armed Service, Veterans Affairs
& Homeland Security
Economic Development, Commerce &
Labor

Al Landis
State Representative

March 6, 2017

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, and Ranking Member Johnson,

I first want to apologize to the Chair and the Committee for being late to sponsor testimony with my Joint Sponsor, Representative Blessing. My schedule did not reflect the time change for the committee and I appreciate the time you are giving me today to testify on HB 19. I promise to be brief.

In short, HB 19 is designed to clarify language as to whether a person manufacturing a controlled substance can be charged with arson if a fire or an explosion occurs. Right now, it is open to interpretation, and not everyone is on the same page. We seek to get everyone on the same page.

Meth labs are statewide and a concern to all of us and our constituents. It can happen in rural areas and it can happen in any neighborhood. Right after Representative Blessing and I dropped the bill, there were two more busts in my neighboring counties. Fortunately, there wasn't a fire nor explosion. But this is not always the case. In an area of New Philadelphia there was a vacant home in what is considered a very nice neighborhood with an elementary school within sight. There was an undetected meth lab being operated there. Thankfully, a fire and a disaster were averted thanks to the fast responding fire and emergency personnel. If there had been an explosion while students from this neighborhood were on their way to school... it's such a horrible thought.

Our constituents are asking for whatever help we can give them. They expect us to do all we can. House Bill 19 is a step in the right direction and I encourage all of your support of the bill.

Thank you for your time.

Al Landis
State Representative
98th Ohio House District