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Committees:

Vice Chair Energy and Natural Resource

Agriculture and Rural Development

Public Utilities

State Representative Christina M. Hagan
Ohio House District 50

House Bill 320
September 19th, 2017

Chairman Dever, Vice Chair Sprague, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development Committee: thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 320.

Regardless of our political affiliation, we all share a common thread and that is the desire to work side by side to build a stronger, more sustainable and economically secure state for all Ohioans; An environment where businesses, small and large, can feel confident in investment and where great jobs can flourish. While we continually strive to lay the groundwork for such an environment, we would be remiss, if we failed to move forward on this important part of Ohio's foundation. We can and should use every tool available to create long term fiscal responsibility. HB 320 is paramount to doing just that. It enhances our ability to have accurate information, immediately, to better serve our purpose. I believe that transparency in government is the key to holding ourselves, as policy makers, to the highest degree of accountability. It also ensures that the citizens of Ohio, whom we represent, have the information available to them through a clear and concise document for all.

As Representative Roegner and I have worked through this important legislation, our original intent has stayed the central focus, our bill has remained straightforward, and fact based. The pertinent data provided through the council will be beneficial to all. We have all heard at one time or another that Government should be run more like a business; no business can remain successful without vision and a forward thinking plan. Therefore, it becomes clear and logical that creating a financial outlook plan for the State creates efficiency and accountability through the transparent and reasonable approach of understanding implication of bills passed into law. Not only will this provide us with precise financial information, it will give leaders a vital overview and, subsequently, assist them in being better prepared when making key economic decisions.

Our great Nation and State have faced cumbersome and serious economic hardship, putting a great strain on job retention and creation through the last several years. Far too often, our nature is to be reactive. On behalf of all Ohioans, we can no longer afford the status quo. As representatives, it is our charge to discard this short-sighted method of leadership. State leaders, Democrats and Republicans alike, can create an environment that is proactive and, subsequently, produce results that will be more responsible and accountable. It is my hope that we continue to create tools that

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will help run our state with greater efficiency and transparency. I am asking you to consider this for your constituents currently and for those of generations to come. Our intent is to work with you, as colleagues, to take proactive steps toward creating long-term stability. It is irresponsible of any leadership to overlook this basic business principle. A proactive approach to government will be of the best service to all.

I am glad to answer any question you may have at the conclusion of my joint sponsor, Representative Roegner's, testimony.