



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY**

OHIO

Micah Derry, State Director
HOUSE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
Proponent Testimony on HB 133
Tuesday June 6, 2017

Chairman Seitz, Vice Chair Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee thank you for the opportunity to join you this afternoon presenting proponent testimony on House Bill 133.

I represent tens of thousands of Americans for Prosperity activists in Ohio who believe in the benefits of a free society and work for free market policy at the local, state and federal levels. We are in support of House Bill 133 to reduce regulatory obstacles in the case of disaster relief.

No one in Ohio wants to imagine the damage and human cost of a disaster. But it's the job of governmental officials to be prepared for one. Systems like tornado sirens or the emergency broadcast system are crucial for saving lives in emergencies.

After disasters, however, states are often woefully unprepared. While neighbors and non-profits band together to help affected areas, those who want to help often can't due to red tape and regulation.

Businesses who want to help communities rebuild have to obtain government approval to help, as well as deal with complex tax regulation at a time where everyday citizens could use all the help they can get. By granting an exemption, citizens can get help when they need it most.

Although it's tempting to view this exemption as a special favor to business, in reality it brings attention to the obstacles presented by regulation and is an important step in providing critical services. Additionally, it's only for a short period of time, and in certain circumstances, so Ohio-based businesses won't be put at a disadvantage.

Nineteen other states have already passed similar legislation, including our neighbors in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Indiana. If they are all willing to accept the help of Ohio businesses during the time of disaster, why aren't we willing to accept the help of theirs? And if we should happen to have a shared disaster with one of our neighbors, why should they receive crucial aid before Ohioans?

House Bill 133 is about as common-sense legislation as is ever seen in front of this legislative body. I urge you to pass House Bill 133 to make sure red tape doesn't get in the way of Ohioans' wellbeing.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman for the time in committee this morning and I welcome any questions from the committee.