

June 19, 2017

The Honorable Bill Seitz
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Seitz:

On behalf of the undersigned associations, we write to express our support for HB 133 – Disaster Relief Act that will accelerate and improve disaster recovery and restoration efforts of utility, telecommunications and cable services in Ohio.

When the delivery of these services is interrupted to Ohio customers and businesses, our member companies work to restore service as safely and efficiently as possible. In some cases, such as responding to a disaster, an immense amount of resources and personnel are necessary and rapidly deployed to ensure public safety, repair damage, and restore services to those affected. When needed, company employees and additional resources from outside the state are rallied on a temporary basis to assist in these efforts and ensure an appropriate and effective response.

HB 133 offers relief from a burdensome tax and regulatory compliance process currently in place that impedes and burdens the administration of disaster response efforts. Our utmost priority is the safety of citizens and our workers during times of disaster and then the proficient restoration of service to Ohio customers.

We urge the House Public Utilities Committee to favorably report HB 133 and we are pleased to join the NFIB and Ohio Chamber of Commerce in support of the legislation.

Sincerely,



Joe Hollabaugh
Executive Director
Ohio Electric Utility Institute (OEUI)



Jimmy Stewart
President
Ohio Gas Association





Jonathon L. McGee
Executive Director
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association



Charles Moses
President
Ohio Telecom Association

