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Good Morning Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 105.

My name is Rick Frio, Chairman of MPR Transloading and Energy Services, LLC in Bellaire, OH.

As you are all well aware, eastern Ohio has been devastated by the loss of jobs in the heavy industries of coal and steel over the past few decades. Moreover, we've lost future generations as children move away after high school and college because of low prospects for local jobs.

Then, by the grace of God energy companies found historically significant reserves of energy right under our feet. It's been a wonderful resurgence and I could share stories of young people moving back as they can find jobs again. It's frankly been the recreation of the family in many many cases.

We have already seen a rebirth of industry and jobs. And, the potential of major companies moving into our area, building plants and creating jobs is as good as any time in our history.

But, to be able to be successful in this path of the future we need to be able to fund infrastructure of not only roads and highways but community as well.

The energy industry literally brings their operations to our back yards. I'm happy to report that they are the safest, most community conscious industry I've ever worked with. But their taxes, RUMA funds and their generous donations to local governments and entities are simply not enough to satisfy the needs we have to keep up.

We must be in position to welcome these new companies and factories without delay and to do this we need the revenues from the severance tax to return to our area.

The entire state then benefits with job creation and additional tax revenues for many generations.

Thanks for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions.