



Bill Roemer
State Representative
Ohio's 38th House District

H. R. 247 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Resolution 247, an important step in creating a level playing field for the residents of Northeast Ohio, while also maintaining a mindful eye on the reduction of pollutants in our great state.

You may recognize this resolution as, in the 132nd General Assembly, it passed overwhelmingly, 72-25, under the stewardship of former State Representative Ron Young. H.R. 247 urges the United States Congress, President Donald Trump and the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler to review and amend the Federal Clean Air Act, to eliminate the requirement to implement the E-Check Program, and to repeal and replace the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards. I see these changes as vital to improving air quality in the State of Ohio, while also maintaining a positive business climate and helping to grow the economy.

Numerous constituents have reached out to me, requesting that E-check testing be discontinued. They find it burdensome and time-consuming with little, if any, benefit to the environment. Currently, through the state's contract with Envirotest, taxpayers already foot the bill at the tune of \$9.28 million dollars annually for this biennial testing. Additionally, it has a disproportionate impact on poor and lower middle-class drivers that cannot afford the newest vehicle models.

Starting in 1996, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) initiated a vehicle emissions testing program, otherwise known as E-Check. This system, while intending to identify and limit motor vehicles that emit excessive levels of pollutants into the air, has largely been proven obsolete, arduous and arbitrary for the citizens and businesses of Northeast Ohio.

To date, only seven counties in Ohio are subject to these federally mandated requirements: Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit. Amidst a time of considerable economic growth across these United States, it is unconscionable that this undue federal overreach would limit an entire region of our state's potential for prosperity and progress. I believe it is vital that President Trump and the EPA research alternatives to this program and work to improve air quality in Ohio while protecting businesses and families.

Thank you once more to Chairman Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources committee for this opportunity to testify. I am eager to answer any questions that you may have.