

Christine Snyder – HR 247 Proponent Testimony

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

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 before you in support of H.R. 247, which would urge Congress and President Trump to eliminate the e-check program.

I am a long time resident of Summit County and Hudson, Ohio. Through my life I have witnessed significant change with my home, as the economy ebbs and flows and many manufacturing jobs have left for elsewhere. It is my understanding that Summit County's air quality is good, and is only getting better as our government on both the state and federal level has taken steps to regulate and improve air quality. The important line that we must walk, however, is one of necessity and moderation: for too long Northeast Ohioans in 7 counties have faced arbitrary, arduous and undue regulations on their vehicles and generally their way of life as a supposed method of strengthening our air quality. I dispute that the subsequently established e-check program has had that intended effect.

As a long time officer with the Classic Car Club of America, our vehicles in the State of Ohio are exempt from the e-check program due to their antique status. This is puzzling to me as the e-check program is intended to police and mandate repairs on automobiles, and yet some of oldest vehicles find themselves kept out of the program. It is far past due that we must find an alternative to this method of satisfying government mandates.

In my capacity as Chief Executive Officer of Nordec in Stow, Ohio, I find that it is a significant difficulty for many of my employees to comply with e-check. Many of these employees own older vehicles and are forced to not only undergo e-check testing, but to make expensive and often unnecessary repairs on their vehicles to meet these arbitrary and capricious standards. Additionally, employees frequently have to request time off to schedule both the e-check testing appointment and any associated maintenance.

Ohio has long been a state that offers a sort of microcosm to that of the overarching American dream: due to careful controls on regulation and government overreach into our lives, we were able to grow a successful business, a thriving family and an enviable way of life. It is absolutely imperative that we work to reduce these needless government regulations on our citizens to allow workers and businesses to prosper in Northeast Ohio. E-check provides no significant benefit worthy of impeding these great strides we have taken and will continue to take.

Thank you again to Chairman Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources for the great pleasure in coming before you. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.