



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Stephens, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Weinstein and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 685. My name is Ty R. Pell, and I am VP of the Adams County Board Commissioners and President of the Adams County Community Improvement Corporation.

Since the 1960's when Governor Rhodes created the State Route 32 corridor it was meant for development. But Adams County's lack of natural gas has hindered our ability to recruit commerce to our county. House Bill 685 is monumental for Adams County. Natural gas infrastructure is the last piece of the puzzle when it comes to development and job creation in the county. We need it at the Winchester Industrial Park, the Adams County Regional Medical Center, local school facilities, the villages of Winchester, Seaman, and Peebles and even at our largest employer the General Electric testing site.

When you look at a gas map, most of Adams County is white. We are in a gas desert. We have a small gas line that comes up 52 and into the power plants and comes into West Union, but it's nothing that can support the manufacturing industry. The northern part of the county is completely void of gas.

I applaud the bill's sponsors for putting together a robust package of policies that will have a positive impact on so many communities across Ohio that are being left behind when it comes to accessing this abundant Ohio resource. These incentives will help the counties leverage private and public investments like the Clermont County Purina Plant. We see this as an opportunity to attract satellite companies that will provide goods and services to the Purina plant. But without the adequate infrastructure the lack of natural gas has hindered our ability to recruit commerce to Adams Counties opportunity zone.

Since Adams County has lost a major business and employer with the closing of both Dayton Power & Light electric generating facilities, the county has been designated as a "Distressed" county. We desperately need your support to help advice this legislation. Thank you again for the opportunity to lend my support to House Bill 685 this afternoon, and I would welcome any questions you may have.

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