



May 24, 2021

Rob McColley, Chair
Kirk Schuring, Vice Chair
Sandra R. Williams, Ranking Minority Member

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Re: Proponent testimony for House Bill 201

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber represents 2,400 members who employ 150,000 residents throughout the Mahoning Valley. We work with government officials to advocate for economic development policies that help make the Valley an ideal place to live, learn, work, and play.

Our great state is blessed to house an abundant supply of natural gas which delivers affordable and reliable energy to families and businesses across the Valley. Much of that natural gas is extracted from the Utica Shale, parts of which are in our backyard. The shale boom of the past decade has made natural gas affordable throughout the Great Lakes region.

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber supports House Bill 201. It provides safeguards for residential and business entities by allowing them access to natural gas without fear of local governments limiting and banning that source. It allows the consumer to best-determine their sources of energy, which the nonpartisan Legislative Service Commission shows is by far natural gas for homeowners at nearly 65 percent.

We support the overall energy approach the Ohio Chamber of Commerce advances, which is a diverse portfolio regulated at the state level. We share concerns that this bill will create confusion to companies considering doing business in the Mahoning Valley, and throughout the state. We also share the concern of higher energy costs for residential and commercial users.

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber asks this committee to favorably report HB 201. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan McNaughton".

RYAN MCNAUGHTON, M.Ed., M.A., *Vice President, Government Affairs*

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