



PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 79
Keary McCarthy, Executive Director
April 26, 2023

On behalf of the bipartisan members of the Ohio Mayors Alliance, thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony regarding House Bill 79. As mayors of 30 of Ohio's largest cities and suburbs, we are keenly aware of the importance of affordability, sustainability, and flexibility in managing utility bills. Because we believe that HB 79 will help our residents ensure that they can both support energy efficiency and save money on their bills, we urge you to support HB 79 and vote to advance it.

The bipartisan members of the Ohio Mayors Alliance work together to identify and support actions to ensure Ohio cities are sustainable and climate resilient. We believe that improving our climate infrastructure, increasing energy efficiency, and supporting creative local solutions to problems are within all of our interests. We are especially pleased to support the strong bipartisan work of Representatives Seitz and Sweeney in crafting and building support for this bill. Ohioans benefit when leaders at the state and local levels work together to solve big problems, and this legislation is the result of solid bipartisan work to craft good public policy.

Each of our cities has been impacted by stress on our electric power grids as weather becomes more extreme. The flexibility this bill offers to consumers and to utility companies will help our local regions better manage service demand and provide more efficient and cost effective electric service to our residents. These are all things we support. Additionally, energy waste reduction helps our cities that are fighting to mitigate the impacts of climate change on city infrastructure and systems. As extreme weather has become more common, all of us are looking for more ways to lessen the impact of higher costs and to ensure that those costs are not passed on to our residents. We appreciate everything the General Assembly can do to help local governments and their partners work together to address these big issues.

Ultimately, HB 79 provides more options to cities and surrounding regions in providing Ohio energy consumers with options they want, while ensuring that our systems overall produce less pollution and run more efficiently. For all of these reasons, we urge you to vote to advance HB 79 to the House floor.