



**Representative Tex Fischer**  
**59<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District**

Chairman Holmes, Vice Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Glassburn and members of the of the House Energy Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 142.

Ohio consistently ranks near the bottom nationally for regulatory lag. HB 142 is a pro-growth, pro-investment reform that modernizes Ohio's natural gas utility regulatory process to make our state more competitive. By reducing regulatory lag and giving gas utilities the ability to use forecasted test periods, similar to the ratemaking reforms in HB 15, this bill empowers job creators to invest in infrastructure with greater certainty and speed, without compromising PUCO's oversight role and ensuring a fair and open process. These are the kinds of regulatory reforms we need to foster energy expansion and economic development, especially in communities looking to attract new industry.

The streamlined approval process and economic development tools provided in this bill will help Ohio attract large-load customers like the power plants we hope to build from our work in HB 15, manufacturers, logistics centers, and high-volume energy users—businesses that bring with them jobs, tax revenue, and long-term economic impact. HB 142 allows natural gas companies to support these projects through customized rate plans and commercial agreements for those large-load customers, all while ensuring other ratepayers are protected. It's a conservative, market-friendly solution that encourages infrastructure development without shifting risk to the public.

Importantly, HB 142 injects predictability and speed into a regulatory system that too often slows down growth. It sends a clear message to employers and investors that Ohio takes economic development seriously and won't let red tape stand in the way of progress.

If we want to meet the rising energy demands of Ohioans, then we need to take more steps towards ensuring that our state is on par with those needs through reasonable regulatory reform. This bill will accomplish exactly that, and it is our belief that establishing a more efficient working relationship between natural gas utilities and the PUCO is necessary to accomplish that goal. Thank you again, Chairman Holmes, for bringing this bill before the Energy Committee today, and I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

**Committees:**

General Government – Vice Chair  
Energy  
Development  
Natural Resources

**[www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)**  
**77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111**

**Contact Information:**

Office: 614-466-6107  
FAX: 614-719-3959  
Email: [rep59@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep59@ohiohouse.gov)