



Chairman Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Tara Goode, and I am the Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Radar Operations for Climavision.

Climavision's high-resolution weather radars are being installed across the country to ensure that communities are prepared for and can sufficiently respond to extreme weather events.

Unfortunately, severe weather events have become more common than ever before. *In April 2024, Ohio led the country in confirmed tornadoes.* In fact, last year was the state's worst year in history for tornadoes.

We have all come to rely on mobile apps or television meteorologists for our weather information, which comes from our existing federally owned radar network, but oftentimes this information is inaccurate or does not line up with ground truth. Inaccurate weather reporting or forecasting frequently occurs due to a lack of data or visibility into certain weather events. In other words, if a meteorologist or forecaster cannot see certain types of weather events, they cannot possibly issue warnings, and impacts occur seemingly out of nowhere and with no notice to people in harm's way. This is what we call a low-level weather gap. 130 million Americans live in a weather gap – areas without low-level coverage from our existing federal network. These gaps are often in rural areas and, therefore, disproportionality impact rural populations. Noteworthy events, such as the Point Place tornado near Toledo in 2023, are demonstrative of this dangerous vulnerability.

The only solution for weather gaps is to install new weather radars to observe low levels. Ohio has always been on our roadmap, but the historic weather events this state experienced last year ignited a sense of urgency as it pertains to bringing our radars online. That being said, Climavision is thrilled to be finalizing three radar installations here in Ohio that will go live this spring, specifically in Mercer, Hancock, and Muskingum counties. Additionally, Climavision already has a radar online in Northern Kentucky, providing benefit to much of southwest Ohio.

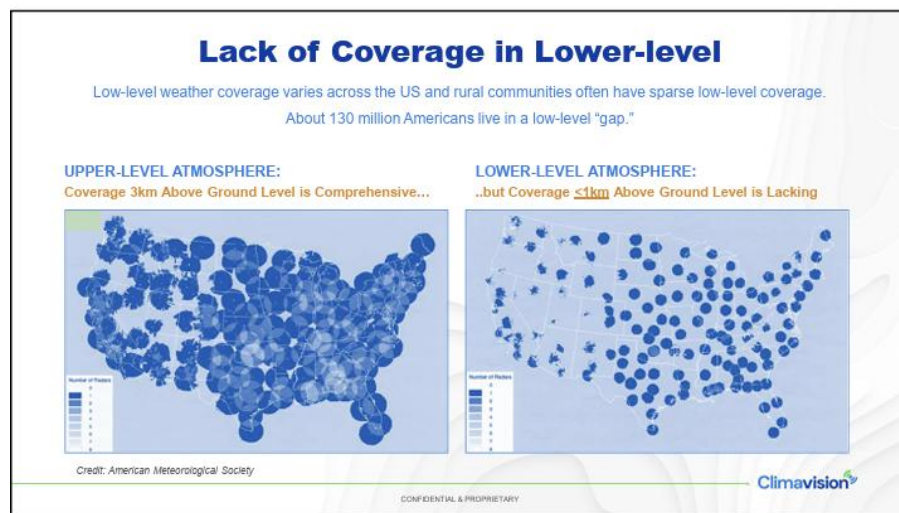
Each new radar is owned, operated, and maintained by Climavision and covers a 60-mile range. The systems operate 24/7 and fill the weather gaps to ensure every community has complete, equitable weather radar coverage. Once online, the data can be integrated into existing dashboards for key agencies and local governments. Beyond significantly improving public safety, filling weather gaps has infinite benefits for public safety, road and aviation safety, energy resilience, agriculture, and environmental protection and can even serve as an economic driver for a state.



Because most public safety officials know when they are in a weather gap, they are eager to get radars installed. All of our systems are being installed at our cost through public private partnerships with local county emergency managers and city leadership who are eager to address the problem and get more lead time and accuracy when it matters. Our data shows that once we have a gap-filling radar online, we can provide *on average 5 minutes of lead time* when detecting tornado signatures. *In some cases, we have captured these signatures with extreme lead time up to 22 minutes.* While tornadoes are most notable, these radars are also useful for wildfire and smoke detection, snow squalls and lake effect snow, wind gusts, and highly accurate and timely water estimation to prepare and respond to flooding.

Climavision would support the House adding amendment HC0217 to House Bil 96 for \$1M per fiscal year to be used by the State of Ohio to partner with an organization like Climavision which has access to weather radars that can observe and analyze low-level atmospheric data. The goal is for state agencies and local governments to have access to and use this data for the safety of Ohioans.

Chairman Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the committee, thank you once again for your time. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



● NEXRAD Network

● Climavision

Radar Locations: OH89 – St. Henry, OH; OH93 – Arcadia, OH;
OH92 – Muskingum Co.; KY 90 – Dry Ridge, KY