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*Finance*  
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Sponsor Testimony  
Senate Bill 151  
Senate Public Utilities Committee  
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Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Public Utilities Committee,  
I am pleased to be here today to offer sponsor testimony on SB 151.

Senate Bill 151 is the reintroduction of Senate Bill 174 from the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and it deals with allowing natural gas suppliers to offer carbon offsets to consumers.

So, what are carbon offsets? Carbon offsets represent one ton of greenhouse gas removed from the atmosphere by any method of mitigation. Two examples of carbon offsets are:

1. Planting trees that absorb carbon dioxide, and
2. Capturing and burning methane gas produced by landfills or farms before the methane enters the atmosphere.

However, these are just two examples of how natural gas service suppliers can offset natural gas consumption.

As you might have noticed, I used the word “can” and that is for a very important reason.

Moreover, SB 151 will allow consumers to voluntarily purchase both natural gas and carbon-offsets from natural gas service suppliers that have voluntarily chosen to offer carbon offsets.

Meaning that all of this is voluntary and therefore not required.

Despite being voluntary, this program, regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, is still very important because carbon offset programs support Ohio’s natural gas industry.

Moreover, Ohio, as part of the Appalachian Basin, is part of the largest gas-producing region in the world and we depend on clean and affordable natural gas to heat our homes and power our industries. This dependence is not going away anytime soon. Therefore, the option to voluntarily offset carbon better positions natural gas as a viable fuel for Ohio’s future by allowing consumers and industries who are seeking this type of program to choose to offset their carbon footprint.

Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and fellow members of the Committee, I thank each of you for your time and interest in SB 151. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.