

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Jason Stephens
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus OH, 4315

Dear Chairman Stephens:

On behalf of the Ohio Propane Gas Association (OPGA), please accept our support of House Bill 201. The Ohio Propane Gas Association represents over 80 companies that distribute clean energy to more than 476,000 residential, commercial, and agricultural customers across the state. We are also proudly affiliated with the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants.

While improving our environment is critical, it is important consumers have the ability to choose what energy source works best for their homes, farms and businesses. House Bill 201 seeks to ensure that local governments cannot make the decision to ban reliable and affordable energy sources. Additionally, OPGA would ask that an amendment be adopted to the bill which would add propane as a fuel source which cannot be banned or limited by a municipality. This clarification is important as propane is a byproduct of natural gas yet defined separately in Ohio revised code. If enacted, House Bill 201 will avoid restricting consumer choice and creating a situation where there is a patchwork of cities and counties that have banned gas in homes and businesses.

The states of Arkansas, Arizona, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Utah have enacted similar laws. In addition to Ohio, 16 other states (Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming) are considering similar legislation out of concern for decisions that are being considered at the local government level.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of the sponsors to bring this important legislation forward. Thank you for your consideration and support of clean energy choices.

Sincerely,

Derek Dalling
Executive Director