



**BEFORE THE HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE JASON STEPHENS, CHAIRMAN**

**TESTIMONY
OF
ROB BRUNDRETT
MANAGING DIRECTOR, PUBLIC POLICY SERVICES**

APRIL 15, 2021

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Rob Brundrett, and I am the Managing Director, Public Policy Services for The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA).

The OMA represents Ohio's robust manufacturing sector. We boast approximately 1,300 members – of all sizes. As you well know, affordable and reliable energy is integral to the productivity of these manufacturers. OMA's membership includes many of the largest, most sophisticated energy users in the state. Some of our members consume the same amount of electricity as a medium-sized city. In short, energy is of paramount importance to Ohio's manufacturing competitiveness; therefore, Ohio's energy policy is of great significance to us.

The OMA appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 201 (HB 201). HB 201 provides that every person has the right to obtain available natural gas and prohibits local governments from enacting laws, rules, or codes that limit the use of, prohibit, or prevent residential, commercial, or industrial consumers from obtaining distribution service or retail natural gas service that would otherwise be available to a person under Ohio's public utility law and regulations.

The OMA is supportive of the intent of the legislation to ensure that its members' manufacturing facilities have access to affordable and reliable natural gas service to operate. It is imperative that manufacturers across the state continue to have access to natural gas supplies. Our members, however, have some concern with how broadly the legislation is written and the potential costs that may be unintentionally created through the legislation.

We have appreciated the opportunity to engage with you, Mr. Chairman, as the sponsor of the bill, and with other interested parties to make any potential technical changes and on ways to ensure the bill does not have any unintended consequences such as imposing costs on manufacturers for unnecessary facilities.

Energy policy can either enhance or hinder Ohio's ability to attract business investment, stimulate economic growth, and spur job creation – especially in manufacturing. We feel that the intent of HB 201 helps ensure Ohio's manufacturers will continue to have access to reliable and economical energy sources. We will continue to work with the committee to consider making minor changes to clarify the intent of the bill. Thank you and I would be pleased to try and answer any questions.