



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
HB 201 - Proponent Testimony  
Sarah Spence, Executive Director  
April 28, 2021

Chairman Stephenson, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Weinstein and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee: thank you for allowing me to submit written only proponent testimony for HB 201. My name is Sarah Spence, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum (OHCEF).

OHCEF was founded in 2015 to provide a forum for conservatives to discuss a diverse, all-of-the-above energy portfolio – one that includes not only existing sources of energy generation, such as coal, natural gas, and nuclear, but one that also seeks to expand the development of clean and renewable energy sources – like wind and solar energy. OHCEF believes that clean energy, of all stripes, can strengthen both our economy and our national security while providing unmatched opportunities for innovation.

House Bill 201 would guarantee that every Ohioan has the right to obtain natural gas services by preventing political subdivisions from passing any ordinance, resolution, or building code to limit the use of natural gas. Existing Ohio law allows Ohioans to choose natural gas and the option to shop around for their preferred energy supplier. It also allows cities to create municipal aggregation programs that can contract for certain mixes of energy sources that can reduce consumer electric bills. Even cities that have these programs for their residents are required to offer the ability to opt-out of the aggregation program so their residents can choose their own energy supplier, if they wish.

While we are supportive of natural gas development in our state, we also wanted to make clear that should HB 201 become law, municipalities would still have the ability to create municipal aggregation programs with energy supply mixes that could include renewable energy. We thank Chairman Stephenson and Vice Chair Stewart for working with us to bring forward an amendment accepted by the committee last week that clarifies that the language contained in HB 201 would not limit or prohibit a municipality's rights under aggregation programs to contract for a preferred energy mix. With the addition of this clarifying amendment, OHCEF is supportive of HB 201.

Thank you again for allowing me to submit written testimony in support of HB 201.