



Senators George Lang and Michael Rulli

Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 127
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
May 12, 2021

Senator Lang:

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 127.

Over the last several years, many cities across the country have passed legislation that bans the use of fossil fuels, most notably – natural gas. In addition, many communities have established renewable benchmarks used to help transition away from fossil fuels by a specific date, some as early as 2025.

We are fortunate to have an abundant supply of natural gas in this state, and we should embrace the economic and environmental benefits it provides for our businesses and communities. The purpose of this legislation is straightforward: to prohibit municipalities from banning the use of natural gas – thus preserving a customer’s right to choose the energy option that works best for them.

My joint sponsor, Senator Rulli, can share in greater detail why this legislation is vitally important for Ohioans.

Senator Rulli:

As evidenced by the recent rise in fuel prices across the United States these past couple months, aggressive policies against fossil fuels are completely out of line with the needs of working Americans. Youngstown, Ohio is consistently ranked one of the poorest communities in the United States. Lowering energy costs for low-income families in communities such as Youngstown ought to be a priority. However, it seems that the municipal governments of

Lakewood, Dayton, and South Euclid, among others, are aiming to pass the costs of a renewable mandate onto those most in need of lower costs.

Natural Gas has breathed new life into some of the poorest communities in our state, and has been a blessing to the people of my region. Not only has the industry provided well-paying jobs, it has saved Ohio families over \$15 Billion on their energy bills since 2006. This energy is sourced right here in Ohio, and has been the largest factor contributing to the 27-year low emission reduction in the United States.

We have the opportunity to put Ohioans first, and empty political posturing second. Please help us ensure that the communities most in need of economic assistance don't have their lives negatively impacted by irrational policies. Thank you and we would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.