



May 25, 2021

The Honorable Rob McColley
Chairman
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
1 Capital Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman McColley:

I have the privilege of serving as the current President of the Ohio Propane Gas Association (OPGA), and I also serve as the President of Prism Propane, an OPGA member. I write to you today on behalf of both Prism Propane and the OPGA as both Prism Propane and the OPGA wholeheartedly support House Bill 201.

Prism Propane, based in Findlay, services propane customers in much of Northwest Ohio. The propane we provide keeps our customers warm, heats their water, cooks meals, and dries clothes. Additionally, we provide propane that powers school buses, keeps farms working, and powers forklifts in factories and warehouses.

Prism Propane is not alone. The OPGA has members located throughout the state of Ohio providing these same services. All of us within the OPGA proudly serve our customers and deliver clean, affordable, and reliable energy to rural Ohioans every day.

That is why it is so troubling to see some towns and cities deciding to ban fuels, like propane, from being used in those communities. Such short-sighted decisions do not take into account the local jobs created by propane companies; they do not take into account that we are helping children get to school aboard clean burning, safer, and quieter buses; they do not take into account the investments that families and businesses have made into furnaces, vehicles, equipment, and appliances.

Ohioans in every corner of our state should have the ability to choose the energy that best meets their needs. Limiting consumer choice will only serve to harm Ohio's energy infrastructure. The OPGA believes strongly that Ohio policymakers should support a level playing field that fosters competition, supports industry jobs, and keeps energy affordable. HB 201 supports those goals by helping to ensure that Ohio maintains an all the above energy portfolio.

The OPGA also appreciates the amendment added by the House to HB 201, which adds propane as a fuel source which cannot be banned or limited by a municipality. While propane is a byproduct of natural gas, propane is defined separately in Ohio revised code, and propane has its own distinct qualities, diverse uses, and customer base.

For all of these reasons, passage of HB 201 is important, and I am grateful for strong support of HB 201.

Sincerely,

George Walton
President