

Chairman of the Board
JANE M. NEAL
Senior Vice President, AMG Vanadium, LLC

President
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May 25, 2021

The Honorable Rob McColley
Chairman
Senate Energy and Public Utilities
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
2nd Floor N., Rm. 222
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: House Bill 201 – Written Proponent Testimony

Dear Chairman McColley:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (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). In general terms 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 legislation and its intent to ensure that manufacturing facilities have access to affordable and reliable natural gas service. It is imperative that Ohio manufacturers continue to have access to natural gas supplies. Our organization has worked closely with the bill sponsor and other proponents of the legislation to ensure that the language matches the intent. We initially had some concern about potential unintended consequences given the original language. These concerns were mostly addressed during the House committee process.

Energy policy is critical to Ohio's ability to attract business investment, stimulate economic growth, and spur job creation – especially in manufacturing. We believe that the current version of HB 201 helps ensure Ohio's manufacturers will continue to have access to reliable and economical energy sources.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I'd be pleased to try to answer any questions that you might have; please contact me at rbrundrett@ohiomfg.com or (614) 629-6814.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert A. Brundrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Rob Brundrett
Managing Director, Public Policy Services