

Sponsor Testimony: **HB 430 Advanced Notification**

State Representative Jon Cross, 83rd Ohio House District

March 29th – Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

Chairman McColley, Vice-Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony for House Bill 430. This advanced notification legislation seeks to create a safety dialogue between property developers/owners and hazardous liquids or interstate gas pipeline operators when new land use or property development is planned near a transmission pipeline.

This bill is pro-business, pro-safety, and pro-development and will help to improve Ohio's infrastructure and economy. When a new development of any kind occurs near an interstate transmission pipeline, federal law can require additional modifications be made to the pipeline for the safety of those around it. These additions can become extremely costly for the pipeline and/or developer.

In 2010, 130 stakeholders representing pipelines and community planners from across the United States joined several Federal Government Agencies (including the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and the Office of Pipeline Safety) to come up with best practices related to community land use planning in and around pipelines. The goals in this proposed legislation are based in large part upon the codifying of these best practices.

This legislation aims to do the following:

- Requires that if a public improvement is within 660 feet of the center point of any interstate hazardous liquid pipeline or interstate gas pipeline, the pipeline operator must provide specified information to the public authority constructing the public improvement.
- Requires that if the public authority is notified that the public improvement is 660 feet of the center point of an interstate hazardous liquid pipeline or interstate gas pipeline, the public authority must include in the plans and specifications information specified in the bill related to the pipeline.
- Requires a utility to provide the location information of an interstate hazardous pipeline or interstate gas pipeline to a developer or designer of a proposed project requiring excavation when the project is within 660 feet of a center point of the pipeline.
- Requires the developer and designer to include the notice information provided by the utility of the interstate hazardous pipeline and interstate gas pipeline in the developers or designer's plans and specifications.
- Authorizes a public authority to withhold approval to a project until the requirements have been satisfied by the developer and the utility.

- Provides that a public authority is immune from liability related to the approval or construction of the development when the approval is based on information provided by the developer in the plans and specifications.
- Designates April as “Ohio Work Zone Safety Awareness Month.”
- Thank the Ohio Utilities Protection Service, TC Energy, and Ohio Oil and Gas Association for supporting this bill.

Advanced Notification Legislation will create a better path for correspondence and smart development amongst local stakeholders and any entity that wants to better the community.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.