

Good afternoon, Chairman Beagle, Vice Chairman LaRose, Ranking Minority Member Williams and members of the Senate Public Utilities Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on an issue that effects all of Ohio. I am Nicholas Homrighausen, Executive Director of Community & Economic Development for Harrison County in Eastern Ohio.

Not long ago Harrison County was in dire straits struggling to make payroll and yes even thinking of ways to divvy up the county to surrounding counties by disbanding. Today, we are known as the sweet spot for the emerging Shale Revolution in Ohio and that is thanks to a free market system that has allowed us to grow. In fact, according to Cleveland State University Ohio's Utica shale play attracted \$50.4 billion in investments between 2011 and 2016.

Most recently, our county has had four gas processing plants built in the last five years. With a fifth one slated to be built when the market dictates. In addition, just last September through the efforts of my office, APEG, JobsOhio we announce a state of the art \$1.1 Billion 1000MW natural-gas fired power plant to be built in our industrial park just outside the Village of Cadiz. The plant is expected to come online in 2021.

Together all these projects past and present represent thousands of construction jobs with millions of man-hours. In addition, new jobs and families in our county that would not have located there before.

Because of the free market Harrison County and the entire eastern Ohio region is growing again and has renewed hope. The investment into our region has sparked an economic renaissance and untold foreign investment interest for other economic activity as well. Who could stand here today and say just a mere six years ago that companies all over the world would be interested in little old Harrison County let alone the State of Ohio. The answer is no one without being laughed at or called insane.

In addition, a June 2016 New York Times Article stated that we (Ohio) has the lowest cost energy in the developed world. Right here in Ohio and how did we accomplish that by working hard, good old American ingenuity. Letting businesses do what they do best, not letting government get in the way, and surely by not bailing out.

This discussion goes beyond new and old electric plants. It's about Ohio's economic future as a leader where the new global market begins, wants to grow and prosper and is fair for all businesses and industry. One that doesn't penalize others or jeopardize future growth for short term solutions. Don't we all want Ohio to grow to its full potential? I know none of us would be in this room today if we didn't. We all want a future Ohio that continues to grow in business and population to move into the top 5 states in the nation for both. Ohio is and always has been a leader.

Passing SB 128 puts all that investment in Ohio's economic future in jeopardy.

Please join me in keeping Ohio at the forefront of fair open and honest free market that businesses look to thrive in. Thank you again for your time today.