



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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Senate Bill 346
September 23, 2020
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director
Written Proponent Testimony

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee; thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 346 (SB 346), which repeals House Bill 6 (HB 6).

My name is William Murdock and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). MORPC is a voluntary association of over 70 local governments across Central Ohio's rural, suburban, and urban areas. We provide programs, services, and funding related to transportation, land use, data, sustainability, and economic prosperity.

We were all surprised in the news earlier this summer and in the events that allegedly transpired in the passage and protection of House Bill 6 (HB 6). A couple of months ago I don't think anyone could have imagined we would be here, but we are, nonetheless. Energy is key to the economic growth and success of Central Ohio, which is on track to be a region of three million people by 2050. To sustain this growth and plan for prosperity MORPC pursues sustainability solutions that protect and conserve our natural resources and promote a diverse supply of clean, affordable, and reliable sources of energy for our growing region. We seek the integration of energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy for a more balanced, cleaner, and diverse energy portfolio. These goals are reflected in MORPC's Public Policy Agenda and Regional Sustainability Agenda and are strongly supported by our local government members. It is in this vein that we opposed HB 6 last year and support its repeal today. However, we do not support SB 346 simply because HB 6 is poor public policy, but because it taints this body and the work of countless public servants across this great state. Therefore, we must categorically repeal this corrupt legislation.

Replacing HB 6 will take a lot of work and time and MORPC stands ready to be effective partners during this unprecedented time. When the time comes, we strongly encourage an open and fair legislative process as we work together on the appropriate replacement to HB 6. For now, let's pass SB 346 as expeditiously as possible.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Grooms
Secretary

Thank you again for the opportunity to express MORPC's support of this important bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me, at 614-233- 4101 or at wmurdock@morpc.org, with any questions or whenever MORPC can be of service.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Murdock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Murdock" clearly legible.

William Murdock, AICP
MORPC Executive Director