

# Ohio House of Representatives



## Representative Al Cutrona 59<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District

Chair Stephens, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for HB 192.

My legislation will help ensure uniformity across all localities when it comes to the electricity entering our homes. Under this bill, localities will not be able to pass legislation restricting the means of energy generation beyond what is in the Ohio Revised Code.

By ensuring that localities are not able to implement restrictions beyond what is in the ORC, we are helping prevent potential rate increases to our constituents because a local government decided to pass new restrictions that cause utilities to drastically change their energy generation practices. This will also prevent any issues that may arise when it comes to energy supply. An unnecessary burden is created when energy supply must be directed to specific localities based on how that energy was generated.

The State maintains standardized regulations for many industries, for example our banking laws do not vary from municipality to municipality, realtors follow state usury laws, and many forms of commerce are regulated at the state level as well. This legislation is consistent with statutes that establish and maintain a statewide mechanism of regulation.

Consumers should also have their choice of fuel they use to heat their homes, run their businesses, and get them from point A to point B. It is not the place of a local bureaucracy to limit or prohibit these options for consumers. One municipality's choice to prohibit or limit certain fuels or forms of energy generation could have impacts well beyond their boundaries as industry infrastructure and networks span many jurisdictions and states.

These localized bans can prohibit the adoption of clean burning and affordable fuels like propane. Ohio should be supporting these fuels instead of local jurisdictions attempting to decide for their citizens which fuels will be permitted in a given part of the state. Many local governments and school districts have already invested in these fuels. For example, there are hundreds of propane school buses operating across the state of Ohio. Local bans on fuel could easily harm school districts that have made investments into safely transporting children aboard clean school buses.

When the legislature has the sole authority to place restrictions on energy generation, we are able to make sure that there is uniformity in the energy entering our homes. It also allows us to meet the needs of the state as a whole without having to worry about restrictions that localities have put in place. It is my hope that you will join me in supporting this legislation to bring uniformity to energy generation in our state. I would like to thank you all again for the opportunity to testify and welcome any questions that you may have.

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