



*Representing the hearth, patio and barbecue industry in
Kentucky, Lower Peninsula of Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia*

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Written Testimony Supporting
HB 201 – Prevents local governments from limiting use of natural gas
before the
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
by
MidStates Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association
May 25, 2021

To: Committee Chairman Rob McColley and Members of the Committee

The MidStates Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association urge you to vote Yes on HB 201 which prevents local governments from limiting the use of natural gas. This bill will protect our members businesses by ensuring consistent regulations through the state of Ohio and allowing them to continue to provide secondary gas heating products many Ohioans rely on.

The MidStates Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association represents retailers, service companies, distributors and manufacturers of indoor and outdoor gas heating and cooking appliances in the state of Ohio. There are over 60 small businesses throughout Ohio that are members of our organization, which employ thousands of employees.

HB 201 ensures Ohioans can continue to afford their heating bills, and many use natural gas, which is a clean source of energy. Gas fireplaces are a reliable source of secondary heat and can be crucial for families if/when they lose electricity during a storm and need a backup source of heat.

Communities across Ohio are proposing outright bans on gas appliances in new buildings and construction. Banning natural gas would not only negatively impact our members businesses, their customers, and communities, it also threatens to take away the right of Ohioans to choose the type of appliances for their homes and businesses. This bill would prevent that from happening in Ohio.

We ask for your support on HB 201 and your vote to pass this bill through the Energy and Public Utilities Committee to protect our members businesses and Ohioans right to choose.

Thank you.