December 13, 2023

The Honorable Bill Reineke
Chairman, Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee
Ohio Senate - 1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Reineke:

I am writing today on behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce in support of House Bill 201. Specifically, support for amendment AM_135_1405_1 that was amended into the bill at Tuesday's committee hearing. The improvements to the natural gas Infrastructure Development Rider (IDR) aligns with the Ohio Chamber's recommendations in the infrastructure section of the 2022 Blueprint For Ohio's Economic Future:

> 1.2.2 Incentivize investment in natural gas transmission infrastructure to provide additional capacity in unserved and underserved areas;

> 1.2.3 Revisit Ohio's "used and useful" standard to determine its cost impact on consumers and to best enable economic development projects.

The IDR as it exists today is a backward-looking rider that does not meet the fast-paced site selection environment that demands shovel ready sites and mega-sites before a site can be considered a finalist for selection. Shovel ready means availability of all utilities at the site for quick development and occupancy of the site.

The IDR keeps the current $1.50 per month ceiling but adds flexibility for natural gas distribution companies. This flexibility includes the use of the IDR to recover the costs of constructing infrastructure to sites supported by the Ohio Department of Development or JobsOhio or one of their regional partners. A provision that sunsets in six years. And flexibility to use a deferral of up to five years with approval from the PUCO.

These changes to the IDR will allow Ohio to continue to develop sites and mega-sites to compete against regional jurisdictions and attract new investment in Ohio to benefit Ohioans working and living in the Buckeye state.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce supports these changes and passage of HB 201 as amended.

Sincerely,

Tony Long,
General Counsel &
Director of Energy & Environmental Policy
Ohio Chamber of Commerce