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209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986
Toll Free: 888-757-1904 • www.ccao.org

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
House Bill 201 – Opponent Written Testimony

Adam Schwiebert
Policy Analyst

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Chairman Stephens, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Weinstein and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 201. CCAO submits the following testimony reflecting the concerns of Ohio's two charter counties, Summit and Cuyahoga.

HB 201 would preempt Ohio local government from making local decisions on energy sources. The bill would prohibit political subdivisions from enacting any ordinance, resolution, building code or other similar requirement that would limit, prevent, or prohibit any consumer within its boundaries from obtaining natural gas and propane.

Ohio's charter counties and their county executives and county council members are well positioned to reflect the interests of their constituents and are accountable to county voters for those decisions. Providing flexibility for communities to determine their energy sources allows communities to tailor energy policies that best reflect the interests of their residents.

CCAO is not aware of any Ohio counties that are pursuing prohibitions on natural gas access or propane, and few counties nationwide have explored such efforts. Rather, a number of Ohio counties are seeking to expand natural gas delivery infrastructure to provide greater access to this energy resource, and CCAO is supportive of state investments to increase natural gas access and capacity.

By preserving local control, we can ensure that local communities have the flexibility to address the unique challenges their residents face. HB 201 would reduce this local control for counties, whose statutory ability to restrict energy sources is already limited, and where little to no opposition to natural gas or propane access currently exists.

Thank you for your time and consideration of CCAO's testimony. Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me at any time.



Fax: 614-220-0209
www.corsa.org



Fax: 614-229-4588
www.cebco.org



Fax: 614-221-6986
www.ccao.org