

April 20, 2021

Dear Representative Stephens and Members of the House Energy Committee:

Ohio is home to an abundant supply of natural gas which provides affordable, reliable and environmentally friendly energy to millions of families and businesses. The recent trend of local governments across the country limiting access to natural gas service is alarming considering the countless benefits natural gas provides the American family, economy and its important role as part of diverse energy mix that ultimately supports the expansion of renewable energy. **HB201 and SB127 are common sense pieces of legislation that prohibits local governments from taking away an Ohioan's right to choose how to heat their homes, dry their clothes and cook their food.**

Additionally, allowing a patchwork of communities to ban natural gas creates unnecessary operational challenges that will negatively impact both residential and business customers and increase costs to consumers.

Natural gas is a key component in solving the global climate challenge and is vital to Ohio's fuel mix for a variety of reasons:

***Affordability***

- On average, Ohio families save \$879 a year by using natural gas to cook, heat their homes and dry their clothes and nationally families have saved \$143 billion over the past ten years
- 5.5 million businesses use natural gas in the U.S. saving \$121 billion since 2009

***Reliability***

- The natural gas system is primarily underground and shielded from most major weather events, providing important reliability that other energy cannot
- Natural gas is an important part of the all-of-the-above energy strategy and recent events have shown the importance of not putting all energy eggs in one basket

***Environmentally friendly***

- Emissions from the natural gas distribution system have declined 73 percent since 1990
- Switching from coal to natural gas for electricity generation has resulted in 53 percent emission reductions

We, the undersigned, support HB 201 and SB 127 and urge its passage to continue allowing Ohioans to benefit from our state's great natural resource.

