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April 15, 2021

Representative Jason Stephens
Chair, Ohio House Energy & Natural Resources Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Stephens:

I am writing on behalf of our 21,000 governing members to lend support for House Bill 201. This legislation aims to ensure our member small businesses have certain, reliable fuel sources to meet their energy needs. We commend you for introducing this bill.

By way of background, a typical NFIB member in Ohio employs 20 or fewer and does less than \$2 million in annual receipts. Our members come from all industry types and each of the 88 counties. Our members range in size from sole proprietors to large operations employing hundreds.

House Bill 201 prevents political subdivisions from adopting policies that prohibit residential, commercial, or industrial customers from obtaining natural gas service. Natural gas is currently a low-cost fuel, with significant production taking place right here in Ohio. Ensuring a uniform, state-wide policy provides predictability for employers, especially those with locations in multiple jurisdictions.

We are concerned that while perhaps well-intentioned, policies that require renewable energy and prohibit traditional fuels will lead to unreliable energy availability and cause interruptions in day-to-day operations, disrupting the normal flow of commerce. Additionally, these traditional fuels supplement renewal energy sources like solar and wind when for example the wind is not blowing.

Many companies have elected to incorporate renewable energy sources as part of their overall portfolio. They do so to lessen environmental impacts and because it makes good business sense. However, businesses need reliable energy and House Bill 201 helps ensure this need is met.

We urge support for House Bill 201. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris J. Ferruso". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "F".

Christopher J. Ferruso
Ohio Legislative Director