



Ohio Environmental Council
[Action Fund]

June 24, 2021

To: Members of the Ohio Senate
From: Heather Taylor-Miesle, President, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
Re: House Bill 201

Dear Honorable Senators,

I am writing to inform you that the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) Action Fund will be scoring House Bill 201 (HB 201) for the purposes of our Legislative Scorecard for the 134th Ohio General Assembly.

We urge a no vote on House Bill 201. In the event that HB 201 passes, the OEC Action Fund will be doing public education on the continued decisions by the Ohio legislature to treat fossil fuels differently than clean energy. If Ohio is truly an all of the above state, then we must level the playing field for all forms of energy generation rather than continue to make choices that favor some forms of energy over others.

HB 201 limits local governments from passing resolutions or making changes to city building and zoning codes that would limit or prohibit access to natural gas, despite the fact that no city in Ohio has passed a ban of this nature through resolution or building code updates.

Ohio communities are moving toward 100% clean energy goals, because they recognize the dangers and impacts that climate change will impose on their communities, and they should be permitted to make those choices for their communities. HB 201 appears to be another backdoor attempt to block Ohioans and Ohio communities from choosing to move toward renewable energy as their energy source. The bill also codifies the notion that Ohio state policy is picking winners and losers in what should otherwise be an open and competitive market. Taken in context of other pending pieces of legislation, HB 201 further tips the energy playing field towards more polluting sources of energy while simultaneously imposing barriers to clean energy.

For these reasons, a **no vote on House Bill 201** will be considered favorable for the environment in the OEC Action Fund's legislative scorecard for the 134th General Assembly.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Trish Demeter at tdemeter@theoec.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Taylor-Miesle
President
OEC Action Fund