



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

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House Bill 72 Proponent Testimony
Ohio House Public Utilities Committee
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
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Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present this proponent testimony on House Bill 72.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of 60 Central Ohio local governments and regional organizations that envision and embrace innovative directions in a variety of fields such as: transportation, energy, housing, land use, the environment and economic prosperity. We are committed to collaborating and creating new strategies that continue to enhance our 15-county region.

Energy issues are at the top of the agenda for our local governments and their constituents. Rising energy demand and price, shifts in the traditional mix of energy supplies, and the growing public desire for cleaner, reliable and more efficient energy are having the greatest impact at the regional level.

MORPC has a long tenure in providing energy services over the past 25 years. Within Franklin County, MORPC has worked with more than 15,000 income-eligible residents to provide energy efficiency services for their homes. This work is accomplished through public-private partnerships with local businesses and support from Columbia Gas of Ohio, AEP-Ohio, and the State of Ohio. In addition, MORPC has worked with manufacturing companies to save on their energy and operational costs.

Most recently in 2014, MORPC released the country’s first-of-its kind Regional Energy Action Plan in partnership with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). It provides an assessment of the economic, social, and policy realities related to the development and use of energy throughout the Central Ohio region and identifies eight recommendations. This legislation will provide a much needed tool to support the study’s recommendations.

Recently, Energy Special Improvement Districts (E-SIDS) was identified by a core group of Central Ohio communities as a tool for the redevelopment of commercial and industrial properties. Collectively, this group requested MORPC to lead and administer a regional program that would provide shared services across multiple jurisdictions.

Overall, MORPC is supportive of HB 72:

- We agree with the intent of the legislation to maintain and expand options for creating E-SIDS. We are supportive of maintaining the existing pathway for creating an E-SID and including port authorities to create E-SIDS as an additional approach to streamline the process.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Eric S. Phillips
Chair

Matt Greeson
Vice Chair

Rory McGuinness
Secretary

- We support the expansion of what qualifies as special energy improvement projects. Expanding eligible projects will give property owners greater opportunity for achieving building improvements and energy savings.
- Finally, adding noncontiguous jurisdictions will give communities the ability to join an existing E-SID without going through a duplicative and burdensome process to establish their own E-SID.

I thank you for your consideration and I am happy to answer any questions.