



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215

T 614.228.2663
TTY 800.750.0750

www.morpc.org

Senate Bill 185 Proponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Christina O'Keeffe, Director of Energy & Air Quality
October 7, 2015
T: 614.233.4192
E: cokeeffe@morpc.org

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jones, Ranking Member Gentile and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 185.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of over 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.

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.

As a region, Central Ohio is a growing region with the expected increase of 25% in population by 2050. MORPC is working with our local government members on energy planning and tools that can sustain this continued growth and economic success. For example, 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). The plan provides an assessment of 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.

Last week, MORPC hosted its annual Summit on Sustainability that engaged more than four hundred elected officials and community leaders to learn, share and discuss sustainable ideas and solutions. Energy issues and programs such as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) were at the top of the agenda for local government members, their constituents and business leaders.

Energy Special Improvement Districts (E-SIDs) as a tool for PACE programs were recently identified by a core group of Central Ohio communities for the redevelopment of commercial and industrial properties, specifically to incentivize energy building improvements that reduce energy consumption and/or generate onsite clean power. Collectively, the group requested MORPC to explore and lead a regional effort that would provide shared services across multiple jurisdictions.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Eric S. Phillips
Chair

Matt Greeson
Vice Chair

Rory McGuinness
Secretary

Overall, MORPC is supportive of SB 185:

- Promotes the use of energy efficiency through PACE financing and E-SIDs to reduce wasted energy and lower operating costs.
- Allows for assessments to be levied upon the property or properties of a land owner as a tool for securing the financing of improvements for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvement projects.
- Clarifies and supports the role of Port Authorities to cooperate with ESIDs and municipal corporations and townships to provide financing and other services.

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