



Mid-Ohio Regional  
Planning Commission

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**House Bill 176 Proponent Testimony**  
**Ohio House Ways and Means Committee**  
**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**  
**Laura Koprowski, Director of Public & Government Affairs**  
**June 9, 2015**  
**T: 614.233.4126**

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present this proponent testimony on House Bill 176 (HB 176).

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.

MORPC administers three programs focused on reducing emissions from the mobile sector: the Air Quality Awareness Program, the Ohio Clean Diesel Collaborative, and RideSolutions. As Federal air quality regulations continue to tighten, MORPC collaborates with the Ohio EPA to identify and evaluate potential emission control strategies that will provide Central Ohio with a pathway to a cleaner and more sustainable environment. We believe HB 176 is a step in that direction and will provide a variety of benefits for Ohio residents, communities and businesses.

As you already know, HB 176 would create several financial incentives for the purchase or conversion of alternative fueled vehicles. The legislation creates or provides the following:

- A \$16,000,000 per year grant under the gaseous fuel vehicle conversion fund for nonprofit corporations, public transportation systems, school districts and public fleets who do not benefit from the tax incentives.
- Tax incentives for the purchase or conversion of vehicles to a natural gas fuel capability based on weight.
- Tax incentives of 50% to convert fuel capability of an existing vehicle or for the incremental cost of purchasing a new natural gas vehicle. The incentives are capped depending on the weight of the vehicle.
- A \$500 sales tax incentive for the purchase of qualified electric vehicles. As well as a ten-year phase in for the CNG, LNG, and propane motor fuel tax.

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Erie S. Phillips**  
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**Matt Greeson**  
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It is important to note that this bill has a sunset provision in which after five years the incentives and grant program will be eliminated leaving only the motor fuel tax.

This legislation benefits Ohio in a variety of ways. Our manufacturers will be more competitive by saving on shipping costs. The transportation logistics industry will cut costs and become more competitive. Local governments will save tax dollars from reduced fleet operations costs. Our growing shale gas development industry and surrounding communities will see new markets open for natural gas and propane. Ohioans will benefit from job growth in these respective industries.

Most importantly, as cleaner burning natural gas and propane vehicles are deployed onto our roads we will all be able to breathe just a little easier. Electric vehicles especially those completely run on battery have little to no tail pipe emissions. Natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel today and natural gas for vehicles produce the fewest emissions of all vehicle fuel types. The emissions natural gas does give off contain significantly less pollutants than gasoline and release fewer emissions at the pump.

Last year, our Commission approved a resolution in support of the 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly version of this legislation. We plan on offering a similar resolution for HB 176 to our Commission next month.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me at 233-4126 or at [lkoprowski@morpc.org](mailto:lkoprowski@morpc.org) with any questions or concerns.