



June 25, 2021

The Honorable Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Governor DeWine;

The Ohio Municipal League, on behalf of our 720 member municipalities, respectfully requests a veto of the provisions in HB 201, which would preempt a local government's authority over natural gas use within its jurisdiction.

HB 201, if enacted, would violate Ohio's Home Rule. Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution grants municipal corporations the right to exercise police powers concurrently with the state so long as the exercise of the local police power does not conflict with the state's exercise of its police powers. The municipal regulation of natural gas use does not conflict with the state regulation, so the use of natural gas should remain under the authority of local control.

It is also important to note that the utilization of natural gas within a municipality is not the same in every municipality. For instance, some municipalities may have readily available alternative sources of energy which are cost effective, while others may not. This means the regulation of gas emissions are different for each municipality.

The Ohio Municipal League, along with our member cities and villages, are grateful for the work the DeWine administration has done to respect the Home Rule rights of Ohio's municipalities, and we appreciate that you have voiced your support and have fought for the principals of local control. We respectfully request that you recognize the negative impact HB 201 would have on Ohio's municipalities both immediately and into the future and to the confidence of their residents across Ohio and that you veto this legislation.

Respectfully,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League