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## TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

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<tr>
<td>Highlight the Valuable Roles, Duties, and Rights of Local Governments</td>
<td>The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to approve an order that will curtail local governments’ authority to regulate the rollout of fifth-generation (5G) wireless technologies. Prior to its approval, MORPC Executive Director William Murdock submitted a letter of opposition to the FCC on Friday, September 14th regarding the draft <em>Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order</em>. In short, the proposed regulations would limit the freedom municipalities have to impose fees or other constraints on 5G small-cell deployments. Furthermore, Ohio House Bill 478, an equitable compromise between municipalities and telecom companies that was signed by Governor Kasich earlier this year, would be undone. Several MORPC members joined, in opposition to the rule and submitted letters opposing the rule. Mr. Murdock’s letter was provided to the Central Ohio Congressional delegation.</td>
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<td>Promote Energy Efficiency and an Abundant Supply of Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Sources of Energy for our Growing Region</td>
<td>The Senate continues to work on a substitute version of House Bill 114 which is pending in the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. MORPC Director of Energy and Air Quality Christina O’Keeffe submitted written opposition on House Bill 114 to the Senate Committee on June 20. O’Keeffe expressed how the sub-bill is an improvement from the House passed version, yet at this time it didn’t merit a change in MORPC’s opposing stance. In her testimony, O’Keeffe highlighted MORPC’s support of certain provisions in the sub-bill. For example, no longer eliminating energy efficiency requirements and the inclusion of wind setback provisions that should spur wind energy development. However, she also conveyed areas of concern such as: the decrease in energy efficiency benchmarks, opt outs that significantly increase costs for consumers, and the removal of language that would provide additional funds to Home Energy Assistance Programs that would help low income residents reduce their energy costs. Staff will continue to monitor the bill as it goes through the legislative process.</td>
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<td><strong>Establish MORPC as Top Resource on Transportation Issues</strong></td>
<td>Earlier this month, MORPC Director of Transportation Systems and Funding Thea Walsh participated in an interested party meeting that was convened by State Reps. Doug Green &amp; Bill Reineke on Connected Autonomous Vehicles (CAV). The House Transportation &amp; Public Safety Committee is creating a comprehensive report on the deployment of CAV’s, the effect it would have on the state, and other smart transportation technologies. It was an opportunity for MORPC to request that the state utilize restraint in regulating this growing industry and an opportunity to focus on MORPC’s various efforts in relation to Smart Columbus, the Regional Corridor Study, Hyperloop, the Smart Region Task Force, and efforts to find funding mechanisms for infrastructure needs. One of MORPC’s primary public policy goals is to achieve an advanced and exceptional transportation system that connects Central Ohio’s people and products to the world. Yet this goal isn’t achievable without the necessary funding resources. As a convener of local governments, MORPC is strategically aligned to address this issue. This summer, we created the Leadership Strategy Group, to discuss funding mechanisms that can measurably improve our transportation network in the region and state. The group includes various past and present leaders on MORPC’s board, including elected officials, city managers, development officials, and others. Ohio’s next governor, the Ohio General Assembly, and the United State Congress will all begin their work anew in January 2019. This provides the opportunity to create and spark a narrative around maintaining existing infrastructure, investing in new technology, and positioning Ohio for economic development. The group will finish its work in the fall, with the goal of collaborating with key regional and state stakeholders.</td>
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<td><strong>Seek Federal Funding for Regional Projects</strong></td>
<td>Congressional leaders had hoped to pass all 12 appropriations bills by September 30, the end of the fiscal year. Despite their best efforts, Congress was only able to pass two “minibus” or combined appropriations bills. To avoid a partial government shutdown, Congress attached a continuing resolution (CR) for these remaining departments to the Defense and Labor/H appropriations bill. The CR ensures that federal agencies will be funded through December 8, by which time Congress will have to pass the necessary appropriations bills or adopt another continuing resolution to keep them funded. What kind of appropriations bill will emerge after the mid-term election will largely depend on who controls the House and Senate in the next Congress.</td>
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**FY18-19 Budget**
Two months into Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, revenues continue the state’s recent trend of exceeding estimates — this despite the reset on projected revenues for the year where they were increased by $531.1 million. Specifically, revenues were $16.2 million or 0.8 percent over estimates for the month of August, bringing the total over estimates for the year-to-date to $27.8 million or 0.7 percent.

**Business/Corporate**
Columbus is the nation’s top “rising” city for start-up businesses, Forbes announced and Cincinnati is sixth. The list was developed in partnership with Washington, D.C.-based venture capital firm Revolution and revealed at Forbes’ “Under 30 Summit,” at which Gov. John Kasich was a speaker. While 75 percent of venture capital funding is focused on California, New York and Massachusetts, the announcement said, “there is a developing class of cities with booming startup scenes beyond the coasts” and Revolution has a “Rise of the Rest seed fund” to support businesses in underserved cities. Author and investor J.D. Vance is the fund’s managing partner, and its investment roster includes Quicken Loans founder and JACK Entertainment chairman Dan Gilbert.

**Census**
U.S. Census Bureau data released recently show an increase in the state’s rate of uninsured individuals, a decrease in poverty and a noticeable increase in the state’s median household income. Ohio’s percentage of uninsured individuals increased from 5.4 percent in 2016 to 6.0 percent in 2017; its rate of poverty decreased from 14.6 percent in 2016 to 14.0 percent in 2017; and its household median income increased from $52,334 in 2016 to $54,021 in 2017.

**Federal**
Four Democratic mayors of Ohio cities joined a press call opposing a plan by the Trump administration to freeze the implementation of automotive fuel standards — the Corporate Average Fuel Economy and Clean Car Standards — saying such a move will affect jobs and the quality of life in their cities. The call, hosted by environment group Blue Green Alliance, featured Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley and Chillicothe Mayor Luke Feeny. Under the proposal, the standards would be frozen on all passenger vehicles at model year 2020 levels through model year 2026. The freeze was announced in August.

**General Assembly/Statehouse**
Co-chairs of the Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee, Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon), announced the appointments of the following four academia and economic development professionals to the group: Dr. Edward Hill of Ohio State University’s John Glenn College of Public Affairs; Dr. Rainer vom Hofe from the University of Cincinnati School of Planning; Joy Davis, executive director of the Hocking County Community Improvement Corporation; and Tim Mayle, director of economic development for the Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development. Other members of the committee — created by HB122 (Hambley-Rogers) — also include Linda Woggon, Matthew Davis, Sens. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) and Sean O’Brien (D-Cortland) and Reps. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) and John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake).
Great Lakes
Citizens and organizations can now directly invest in the Erie P Market, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) announced. For each credit purchased through the Erie P Market, one pound of phosphorus will be prevented from entering the lake, GLC said. The commission announced the water quality trading initiative in July 2016 and performed a “soft launch” of the program earlier this summer.

If the state is going to achieve its Lake Erie water quality goals, policymakers need to adopt more “targeted, data-driven investments,” Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Director Craig Butler said at the second meeting of the Toward a Cleaner Lake Erie Working Group, chaired by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Hackett (R-London) and House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee Chairman Brian Hill (R-Zanesville). Also testifying at the hearing held at Ohio Northern University were six members of the agriculture community who argued against the Kasich administration’s proposed distress order, which would affect eight watersheds in the Western Basin of Lake Erie. Implementation of the order was delayed by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission in July, and the legislative working group was formed shortly thereafter. Hackett said a third meeting after the election is possible.

Local Government
A 7 percent tax on Columbus event tickets would either save the city’s art scene or drive artists out of town, depending on whom you ask. During a Columbus Metropolitan Club (CMC) forum, Greater Columbus Arts Council President and CEO Tom Katzenmeyer and COSI President and CEO Frederic Bertley explained why they believe the tax is necessary, while Arnold Sports Festival Co-Founder Jim Lorimer and attorney Bret Adams discussed why they think it would be a disaster.

Natural Resources
As Ohio’s forest canopies begin their color transformation to strong reds, vivid yellows and bold oranges, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and TourismOhio are encouraging leafers to visit the Buckeye State to catch that first glimpse of color. The two agencies will help people find the best locations to view the changing colors throughout the fall, ODNR said, through fall color reports that will be issued.

People
The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) Board announced that it hired Christina O’Keeffe, the current director of energy and air quality at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), as the authority’s new executive director.
Utilities
A familiar critic of Ohio’s electric utilities told the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC) Governing Board that American Electric Power (AEP), FirstEnergy, Duke Energy and Dayton Power & Light (DP&L) continue to lobby the General Assembly at ratepayers’ expense, and that the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) are largely complicit in consumers’ inflated energy bills. President/Founder Bill Siderewicz of Clean Energy Future, owner and operator of a half dozen modern gas-fired generation plants in Ohio, said electric distribution utilities (EDU) here have become adept at “clawing back” from residential and commercial customers more than their fair share of the business.

Dayton Power & Light Company (DP&L) will double its corporate rate of return and hike its fixed distribution charge by 65 percent under a settlement agreement unanimously approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and joined in full by a diverse group of stakeholders including the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC), Ohio Energy Group, Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy, and others. The city of Dayton, Ohio Manufacturers’ Association Energy Group, and Industrial Energy Users-Ohio limited their support as “non-opposing” parties. DP&L, whose operating income was $23,424,847 for the test period of June 1, 2015 - May 30, 2016, will increase distribution rates by $29.78 million annually for a 7.27 percent rate of return. The commission says DP&L’s new rate plan will cost the average residential customer $2.64 more per month for 1,000 kilowatts of usage.

AEP Ohio has filed a settlement with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) that outlines $607 million in customer benefits from the tax savings created by the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. AEP Ohio, the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel, PUCO staff, and several groups representing industrial and commercial customers have signed onto the agreement.
Goal 1: Promote regionalism at the local, state, and federal levels of government fostering economic growth, prosperity, efficient use of resources, and a high quality of life for Central Ohio residents.

**HB3** DATAOHIO BOARD CREATION (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make appropriations.  
Current Status: 12/12/2017 - House Finance, (Third Hearing)  

**HB175** LIVESTOCK ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (BRINKMAN T) To allow an owner of residential property to keep, harbor, breed, or maintain small livestock on the property, and to prohibit zoning authorities from regulating certain agricultural activities conducted on residential property for noncommercial purposes.  
Current Status: 1/30/2018 - House Agriculture and Rural Development, (Second Hearing)  

**HB281** BROADBAND EXPANSION PROGRAM (CARFAGNA R) To establish the residential broadband expansion program within the Development Services Agency to award matching grants for last mile broadband expansion in municipal corporations and townships and to make an appropriation.  
Current Status: 6/19/2018 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)  

**HB371** TAXES ON UNSOLD PROPERTY (MERRIN D) To exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for residential development until construction commences or the land is sold.  
Current Status: 3/1/2018 – Re-Referred to Committee  

**HB378** OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT (SMITH R, CERA J) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.  
Current Status: 5/10/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  

**HB469** TAX CREDIT-MIXED USE PROJECTS (SCHURING K) To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects.  
Current Status: 9/25/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means  

**HB500** TOWNSHIP LAW (CARFAGNA R) To make various changes to township law.  
Current Status: 9/25/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs  
HB522  F LIQUOR PERMIT-OUTDOOR AREAS (LANESE L) To allow an outdoor refreshment area to include F liquor permit holders.
Current Status: 6/20/2018 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 87-6

HB602  WATER AND SEWER RESTRICTIONS (DUFFEY M, LANESE L) To penalize a municipal corporation for engaging in certain actions related to its provision of water and sewer services outside of its territory by reducing or withholding payments the municipal corporation receives from the Local Government Fund and rendering the municipal corporation ineligible for state water and sewer development funds.

HB720  VOTE ON COUNTY SALES TAX (ANTANI N, SMITH J) To require voter approval of any increase in the rate of a county sales tax.
Current Status: 8/14/2018 - Introduced

HB727  OHIO OPPORTUNITY ZONE TAX CREDIT (SCHURING K) To authorize an income tax credit for investments in an Ohio Opportunity Zone.
Current Status: 8/29/2018 - Introduced
State Bill Page:

HB731  BIENNIAL PROPERTY TAX REVIEW (HOOPS J) To require the Tax Commissioner’s biennial tax expenditure report to include information on property tax exemptions and to require the Tax Expenditure Review Committee to periodically review each property tax exemption.
Current Status: 9/19/2018 - Introduced
State Bill Page:

HB736  LEVYING TAX-BOARD OF ONE (BRINKMAN T) To require certain subdivisions governed by a board comprised of at least one unelected official to obtain the approval of the legislative body that created the subdivision before levying a tax.
Current Status: 10/1/2018 - Introduced
State Bill Page:

SB203  MUNICIPAL TAX RULE REINSTATEMENT (DOLAN M) To reinstate the municipal income tax “throw-back rule” used in apportioning business income among municipalities.
Current Status: 11/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

SB225  OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (SCHIAVONI J, EKLUND J) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.
Goal 2: Achieve an advanced and exceptional transportation system that connects Central Ohio’s people and products to the world.

**HB190**  RAILROAD CROSSING REQUIREMENTS (LEPORE-HAGAN M, SCHURING K) To require vehicle operators to watch, listen, and stop for on-track equipment that may be approaching a railroad crossing.  
**Current Status:** 4/11/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce  

**HB219**  SPEED LIMIT SIGN DISTANCES (BOCCIERI J) To specify that a speed limit becomes effective at a reasonable distance from the appropriate sign giving notice of the speed limit.  
**Current Status:** 11/8/2017 - REPORTED OUT, House Transportation and Public Safety, (Third Hearing)  

**HB250**  ELECTRIC BIKE REQUIREMENTS (BRINKMAN T) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles.  
**Current Status:** 9/25/2018 - PASSED BY SENATE; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 29-0  

**HB415**  LOCAL GOV ROAD IMPROVEMENT (GREENSPAN D, RYAN S) To allocate one-half of any surplus revenue to a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund, from which money will be distributed directly to local governments to fund road improvements.  
**Current Status:** 3/21/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  

**HB436**  NEIGHBORHOOD STOP SIGNS & SPEED LIMITS (BOGGS K, LELAND D) To permit a local resident, neighborhood association, or neighborhood organization to request the erection of a stop sign at an intersection and to support a request for a lower prima facie speed limit on certain streets and highways.  
**Current Status:** 2/14/2018 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)  

**HB519**  COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY (WEST T, KICK D) To create the Ohio Council on Transportation Technology to make recommendations regarding state policies related to autonomous technology.  
**Current Status:** 2/27/2018 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety  

**HB676**  TRAFFIC NOISE ANALYSIS (BARNES, JR. J) To require the Director of Transportation to conduct a traffic noise analysis and to construct noise barriers under specified circumstances.  
**Current Status:** 6/5/2018 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety  
**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**

**Monthly Legislative Update**

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**MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**HB685**  
DRONES NEAR AIRPORTS (BARNES, JR. J) To regulate the operation of drones near airports and to impose certain record-keeping requirements on retail sellers of drones.  
*Current Status: 6/5/2018 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety*  

**HB699**  
AUTOMATED COMMERCIAL VEHICLES (LEPORE-HAGAN M, HUGHES J) To specify the requirements for operating an automated commercial motor vehicle in the state.  
*Current Status: 6/5/2018 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety*  

**SB6**  
OHIO BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOAGLAND F) To extend the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program through the end of fiscal year 2019 and to require the Director of Transportation to submit a report to the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives recommending ways to continue to fund the program.  
*Current Status: 12/13/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)*  

**SB61**  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (SKINDELL M) To make appropriations related to public transportation.  
*Current Status: 12/13/2017 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (First Hearing)*  

**SB113**  
VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX (COLEY W) To levy an additional registration tax on passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars and trucks beginning on January 1, 2020; to authorize a per-gallon motor fuel retail price reduction for consumers that is equal to the state per-gallon motor fuel tax of $.28; and to exempt each gallon of motor fuel that is sold at the reduced retail price from the state motor fuel tax.  
*Current Status: 9/20/2017 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)*  
Goal 3: Conserve and enhance the natural resources, water, air and land in our growing region.

**HB62**  WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (PATTERSON J, SHEEHY M) To require the Director of Agriculture to adopt rules establishing the Ohio Water Quality Improvement Program, to exempt land enrolled in the Program from taxation, and to reimburse local taxing units for revenue lost due to that exemption.  
Current Status: 5/10/2017 - House Agriculture and Rural Development, [First Hearing]  

**HB121**  PIPE MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS (EDWARDS J) To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project.  
Current Status: 11/1/2017 - BILL AMENDED, House State and Local Government, [Fifth Hearing]  

**HR85**  FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL OVERHAUL (YOUNG R) To respectfully urge Congress and President Donald Trump to amend the Federal Clean Air Act to eliminate the requirement to implement the E-Check Program and direct the Administrator of USEP A to begin new rulemaking procedures under the Administrative Procedures Act to repeal and replace the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; to respectfully urge Congress and President Donald Trump to pass legislation to achieve improvements in air quality more efficiently while allowing companies to innovate and help the economy grow; to urge the Administrator of USEPA to alleviate burdensome requirements of the E-Check Program and the Clean Air Act if Congress and the President fail to act; and to encourage OEPA to explore alternatives to ECheck in Ohio.  
Current Status: 5/24/2017 - ADOPTED BY HOUSE; Vote 72-25  

**HJR16**  CLEAN WATER BONDS (ARNDT S, PATTERSON J) To permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund clean water improvements.  
Current Status: 5/15/2018 - Referred to Committee House Finance  

**SB95**  STATE PROJECTS-PIPING MATERIALS (TERHAR L) To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project.  
Current Status: 10/25/2017 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, [Second Hearing]  

**SB112**  GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (SCHIAVONI J) To establish the green infrastructure fund and to make an appropriation.  
Current Status: 9/6/2017 - Senate Finance, [First Hearing]  
SJR6
CLEAN WATER BONDS (GARDNER R, O’BRIEN S) If adopted by a majority of the electors voting on this proposal, Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio shall take effect immediately.
Current Status: 5/10/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
### Goal 4: Promote energy efficiency and an abundant supply of safe, reliable, and affordable sources of energy for our growing region.

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<th>Bill Number</th>
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<td>HB247</td>
<td>ELECTRIC UTILITY CONSUMER PROTECTION (ROMANCHUK M) To require refunds to utility customers who have been improperly charged, to eliminate electric security plans and require all electric standard service offers to be delivered through market-rate offers, and to strengthen corporate separation requirements.</td>
<td>1/23/2018 - House Public Utilities, (Sixth Hearing)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-247">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-247</a></td>
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<td>SB184</td>
<td>WIND FARM SETBACK REQUIREMENTS (SKINDELL M) To alter the minimum setback requirement for wind farms of five or more megawatts.</td>
<td>9/27/2017 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-184">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-184</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>SB217</td>
<td>OIL, GAS REVISED ENFORCEMENT (SCHIAVONI J) To revise enforcement of the Oil and Gas Law, including increasing criminal penalties and requiring revocation of permits for violations of that Law relating to improper disposal of brine.</td>
<td>11/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Natural Resources</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-217">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-217</a></td>
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