

**Andy Thompson**  
95<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District

Finance  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Agriculture and Rural Development

Chair: Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Development and Natural Resources



Verne Riffe Center  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: (614) 644-8728  
Rep95@ohiohouse.gov

**Ohio General Assembly**  
**Ohio House of Representatives**  
**Representative Andy Thompson**

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Chairman Landis, Vice Chair Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and fellow members of the Energy and Natural Resources committee, I am pleased today to offer sponsor testimony for House Concurrent Resolution 16.

This resolution urges the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to take certain actions to counter manipulation of the oil market by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Ohio has abundant natural resources, including energy resources, and much of our economy is directly related to these resources. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has deliberately and routinely influenced the price of oil by manipulating global supply, most recently seen in 2014 when the price of oil fell as OPEC maintained high production in response to growing U.S. shale production. As a result of this manipulation, jobs in the Ohio oil and gas sector fell 24.5% between 2014 and 2015 to 6,291.

HCR 16 would urge Congress to pass H.R. 545, a bipartisan bill that would establish the United States Commission on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to investigate and address any practice on the part of OPEC that prevent or reduce competition in the global oil market.

H.R. 545 would require the Commission to:

- Determine whether the anti-competitive behavior of OPEC is designed to disadvantage U.S. oil producers
- Assess the impact of OPEC's policies on U.S. economic and energy security interests
- Assess how federal agencies are working to alleviate the potential negative impacts of OPEC's behavior
- Produce policy recommendations for tax, trade, defense, diplomacy, and other areas where OPEC's behavior is found to cause adverse impacts

HR 545 also urges President Trump, should Congress not pass H.R. 545, to take executive action to establish and appoint a one-year commission of experts to investigate OPEC and make recommendations to counter market manipulation and price volatility caused by this cartel and state-owned oil companies.

With the passage of this resolution, we will take a stand for reducing our dependency of foreign resources from countries that wish ill upon the United States, but also put Ohio on the forefront of leading the way for other states to follow suit in our endeavors to ensure our energy independence.

Chairman Landis, Vice Chair Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and fellow members of the energy and natural resources committee, I thank you for your attention, and I ask for your favorable consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 16. I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.

**77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-6111**  
**www.ohiohouse.gov**