

House Bill 369 Proponent Testimony-BP America

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and the members of the House Civil Justice Committee, my name is Mary L. Caprella, the Communications and External Affairs Director for BP America, and I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Ohio has worked for decades to establish its reputation as a great place to do business. Through smart, pro-growth public policy, the state has succeeded. In addition to our economic success, Ohio has become well-known for its excellent quality of life, cost of living and our welcoming, inclusive spirit – attributes that have helped draw talented individuals to the state from across the nation and around the globe.

As a member of Ohio's business community, BP writes to urge you to vote for HB 369. BP supports more than 4,400 jobs in Ohio. Our primary asset, the BP-Husky Refinery located in Oregon, Ohio can process up to 160,000 barrels of crude oil each day, providing the Midwest with gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, propane and asphalt. It supplies approximately one quarter of all Ohio's daily transportation energy needs.

BP supports diversity and inclusion, and House Bill 369 would amend the Revised Code to enact the Ohio Fairness Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Companies doing business in Ohio are driven by their people, and winning the talent recruitment battle is key. Any bill that harms our ability to attract top talent to Ohio will inhibit our growth and continued success – and ultimately the success of our great state. By making a clear statement establishing the expectation that everyone in our state will be treated equally, Ohio will become stronger and more attractive for workforce development.

On behalf of BP, I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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