



May 22, 2020

State Representative Diane Grendell
Ohio House District 76
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Grendell,

I write today in support of Amended House Bill 606.

Since its creation in 1947, the Ohio Oil & Gas Association has been the leading voice for the state's oil and natural gas industry. This includes both small, independent conventional producers and large independent horizontal operators exploring Ohio's shale play. Our membership also consists of midstream companies, large-scale transmission line companies, contractors, oilfield service and supply providers, manufacturers, gas utilities and various other professional entities. Our mission is to protect, promote, foster and advance the common interests of those engaged in all aspects of the industry.

Ohio's oil and gas industry is committed to the health and safety of its workers and communities. In providing essential services, many of our member companies have remained operational over the past several weeks as the state combats the COVID-19 virus. Additionally during this time, our members have continued to treat the health and wellbeing of their employees with paramount importance and thus been diligent in following proper safety protocols.

Our members share in the desire of reopening Ohio's economy in the safest, most responsible manner. The provisions outlined in House Bill 606 ensure a smooth process whereby employers can safely and assuredly return to "normal" operations, while still maintaining rigorous protections for employees and their families. The bill also grants needed protections for employers against potentially frivolous lawsuits so they may continue providing the necessary services that the rest of the state's economy depends on to operate without unnecessary hindrance.

Therefore, on behalf of the members of the Ohio Oil & Gas Association, I offer and urge support of Amended House Bill 606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Hammond", written over a white background.

Matthew Hammond
President, Ohio Oil & Gas Association

C: Jonathan McGee, Chief of Staff, Ohio House of Representatives
Matthew McAuliffe, Policy Director, Ohio House of Representatives
Members of the House Civil Justice Committee