



*Working together for Ohio farmers to advance  
agriculture and strengthen our communities.*

**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
H.B. 100 Proponent Testimony  
Jenna Beadle, Director of State Policy  
September 17, 2019**

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, on behalf of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and its members, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on H.B. 100.

As you know, Farm Bureau is truly a grassroots organization. Each year members meet in county farm bureau policy development committees to discuss and vote on county, state, and federal farm bureau policy. From there, that policy comes to the Ohio Farm Bureau policy development committee where that committee will not only debate the policies that are submitted, but will also review our current policy book. All this work culminates in our annual meeting in December when approximately 350 delegates debate and vote on the county submitted policies resulting in our policy book that will be used for the following year.

Farm Bureau has a long history of support for the Dormant Minerals Act (DMA) beginning with proponent testimony in 1988 on SB 223. The original legislation went a long way to solve some of the challenges farmers were facing when trying to clear land titles and resolve their differences with oil and gas producers and reduced misunderstandings when the surface owner did not own the mineral rights. Since that time, the DMA has been amended multiple times, causing the 2016 Ohio Supreme Court decision *Corban v. Chesapeake Exploration*. The Court found that the 1989 Ohio Dormant Minerals Act was not automatic and self-executing and did not apply to cases after 2006 when the bill was amended. That decision has caused confusion and consternation for landowners who now are not able to reunite abandoned mineral rights with the surface unless they have a judicial ruling prior to June 30, 2006 or the landowner can show he or she has done their due diligence to comply with the notice and recording requirements established in the 2006 or 2014 amendments to the DMA.

Farm Bureau supports H.B. 100 because it restores the DMA to its original intent and allows surface owners to rejoin abandoned mineral interests with their property by clarifying the process to obtain those mineral rights.