



Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development, and Natural Resources
Ohio House Operating Budget for Fiscal Years 2020-2021—House Bill 166
Proponent Testimony for H2Ohio Fund
Cargill
April 9, 2019

Chairman Hoops, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Committee—Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the H2Ohio Fund within the Ohio Operating Budget for Fiscal Years 2020-2021 (House Bill 166 – As-introduced).

As introduced by Governor DeWine through the respective state agencies, the H2Ohio Fund is a bold initiative to promote efforts to minimize environmental and public health impacts caused by nutrients entering our waterways. As introduced, the Fund will allocate \$85 million in the 2020-2021 biennial budget and create a \$900 million fund over a ten-year period to address water quality issues in Ohio. Cargill strongly supports these efforts and asks for this committee to retain the level of funding as introduced in House Bill 166. The H2Ohio Fund demonstrates Governor DeWine’s strong commitment to improving the state’s environment for future generations. We appreciate his leadership and vision on this important issue.

Cargill provides food, agriculture, financial and industrial products and services to the world. Together with farmers, customers, governments and communities, we help people thrive by applying our insights and over 150 years of experience. We have 150,000 employees in 70 countries that are committed to feeding the world in a responsible way, reducing environmental impact, and improving the communities where we live and work. With deep roots in Ohio, we operate 13 facilities and employ more than 1,400 people.

Cargill has invested more than \$970 million in Ohio with future plans for expansion and growth. We made \$1.4 million in contributions to nonprofit organizations and paid \$10 million in Ohio taxes last year. We are proud of our Ohio team and operations and support public-private partnerships to address some of our most unique challenges—such as water quality. Cargill works globally to improve water quality in areas impacted by agriculture. Around the world, and here in Ohio, Cargill works with farmer-customers to optimize the use of inputs to maximize yields, reduce runoff and protect watersheds.

Cargill is also a founding member of the Midwest Row Crop Collaborative (MRCC), which unites industry and conservation leaders to improve soil and water quality in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska. Through MRCC, nutrient loss is being reduced and the efficient and sustainable production of commodity crops is being enhanced. This year, MRCC helped fund 20 new demonstration farms in three priority watersheds to test farming practices that can improve soil health, such as decreased tillage, advanced nutrient management, and planting of cover crops.

Cargill is engaging with policy makers and stakeholders here in Ohio to share our best management practices and work from the MRCC. We believe that the H2Ohio Fund can help accelerate and expand opportunities to promote water quality and soil health.



Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony to the Ohio Operating Budget for Fiscal Years 2020-2021 (House Bill 166 – As Introduced).

Cargill stands ready to work with the Ohio Legislature, the DeWine Administration, and Ohio's agricultural and environmental stakeholders to offer our industry and technical expertise as we work toward best management practices and solutions for water quality and soil health here in Ohio.