



Written Testimony in Support of Ohio H.B. 400  
Ohio House Ways and Means Committee  
February 11, 2020

Chairman Merrin and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of Protec Fuel in support of House Bill 400. This legislation offers a limited time and scope, non-refundable tax credit to retailers selling E15 and E85 fuel, and will increase availability of lower-carbon, renewable fuel options for Ohio consumers. These domestically produced biofuels support hundreds of thousands of American workers' families, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and are a major contributor to our Nation's effort to establish safety, security, and prosperity through energy independence.

Founded in 1999, Protec Fuel Management, LLC is a leading distributor of higher blend ethanol fuels. We supply 15% of E85 and 25% of E15 stations across the country, including some Kroger stores in Ohio. Our retail partners serve every demographic, socio-economic background, and urban, suburban and rural communities.

In short, Protec deeply understands the conditions and strategies that lead to success with ethanol fuels. We offer fuel retailers an analysis of their gas stations' suitability to offer E85 and E15, and how they can add the fuels in a cost effective manner. One of the conditions we examine is local support and incentives, which are highly motivating.

Offering a tax credit to retailers will make Ohio stronger in our analysis, significantly increasing the state's competitiveness with businesses evaluating opportunities to invest between a number of states. When E85 and E15 are added to an existing station it helps drive upgrades to the convenience store. The trend with modern convenience stores is to offer healthier food options, which we believe brings a benefit to underserved communities that may be disproportionately reliant on a neighborhood convenience store.

Protec respectfully asks for your support of HB 400, and encourages Committee Members to contact us if we can be of any assistance. The end result will be more Ohio fuel retailers offering a home-grown, environmentally-friendly fuel that is good for consumers and for the state of Ohio.

Thank you,

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