



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

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**Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee
Testimony on Division of Mineral Resources Management Occupational Licenses
Provided by ODNR Director of Legislative Affairs Danielle Vandegriff
June 24, 2020**

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, my name is Danielle Vandegriff and I am the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Thank you for the opportunity to present information today regarding the licensing responsibilities of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Mineral Resources Management.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. The mission of the Division of Mineral Resources Management is to provide for the safe and environmentally sound development and restoration of mineral and fossil fuel extraction sites.

The Mine Safety program promotes safe mining practices for the protection of miners through services that include inspections at surface and underground mines, focused on accident prevention; examination and certification testing; mine rescue support; and safety training. The ODNR, Mine Safety Program trains, examines, and issues certifications.

The Mine Safety Program works from a budget of approximately 3 million per year. It is funded by approximately 2.8 million GRF and an MSHA training grant of \$272,000 per year.

The preservation of the Mine Safety program is necessary to protect the public's health, safety and welfare, and the safety of Ohio's mining workforce. Mine Safety authority is narrowly tailored to deal with the mining industry and mine safety in Ohio.

The Mine Safety program administers the following certifications:

- Mine foreperson certificate
- Qualified person in lieu of a certified mine foreperson
- Clay mine foreperson certificate
- Mine electrician certificate
- Mine foreperson of gaseous mines certificate
- Mine foreperson of nongaseous mines certificate
- Foreperson of surface maintenance facilities of underground or surface mines certificate
- Mine foreperson of surface mines certificate
- Surface mine blaster certificate
- Shot firer certificate
- Fire boss certificate
- Mine medical responder

Of these certifications, only the mine medical responder is a state only requirement. The rest are federally required for mine operations and administered by the state. Members of the Committee, thank you again for giving me opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to take any questions that you may have at this time.