



**Ohio Senate  
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**Committees:**

Ways and Means, Chair  
Finance  
    General Government Subcommittee  
Agriculture  
Insurance  
Public Utilities  
Government Oversight and Reform  
Education  
Rulers and Reference

**Sponsor Testimony  
SCR 20**

Chairman Hite, Vice Chair Hackett, Ranking Member Gentile, and the members of the Senate Agriculture Committee: Thank you for giving me the time to speak to you on Senate Concurrent Resolution 20. This Resolution urges the use of science based data in the regulation of the agriculture industry.

As we in the agriculture industry and we in the Senate Agriculture Committee have seen in recent years, there is an increasing interest by the general public in food sourcing and food growing practices. As farmers, we welcome the public to learn more about their food and our efforts to provide food not only to our state and nation, but also globally as well. We in the United States have the safest, most diverse and most bountiful food supply in the world: all because of modern agriculture and the ability of the few to feed the many. We have art, science, literature, and learning because of modern agriculture, prompting Thomas Jefferson to say, "Agriculture ... the first and most precious of all the arts".

The agricultural industry is and has been changing. It's modernizing. We have technology and chemistry available to us now that our parents and grandparents could never have dreamed of. Scientists have created pest resistant crops, therefore allowing us to reduce our use of pesticides. There are now nutrient dense grains that have been engineered for uses in third world countries where good, nutritional food can be scarce. My father starting farming with a horse as a young boy and now can climb on a combine as wide as this room that drives itself across the field. We harvest as much in a few hours as my grandfather would harvest in a year's time. That's technology. Our yields on the same ground are two to three times greater than they were forty years ago. That's technology. The golden rice and nutrient dense grains that naturally contain the vitamins needed by citizens of third world countries, saving lives: That's technology. This is why I am advocating for sound, scientific based data in the regulation of agriculture.

I thank you again for your time and attention. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.