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Committees:

Agriculture, Vice-Chair
Energy and Natural Resources
Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
Finance Sub-Committee: General Government & Agency Review

Senate Concurrent Resolution 14
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Sponsor Testimony
September 27, 2017

Chairman Balderson, Vice-Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Concurrent Resolution 14. SCR 14 would urge Congress and the President of the United States to take actions to counter manipulation of the oil market by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, also known as OPEC.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 would urge Congress to pass H.R. 545, a bipartisan bill that would establish the United States Commission on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to investigate and address any practice on the part of OPEC that prevent or reduce competition in the global oil market.

H.R. 545 would require the Commission to:

- Determine whether the anti-competitive behavior of OPEC is designed to disadvantage U.S. oil producers
- Assess the impact of OPEC's policies on U.S. economic and energy security interests
- Assess how federal agencies are working to alleviate the potential negative impacts of OPEC's behavior
- Produce policy recommendations for tax, trade, defense, diplomacy, and other areas where OPEC's behavior is found to cause adverse impacts

SCR 14 also urges President Trump, should Congress not pass H.R. 545, to take executive action to establish and appoint a one-year commission of experts to investigate OPEC and make recommendations to counter market manipulation and price volatility caused by this cartel and state-owned oil companies.

In Ohio, we have been blessed with abundant natural resources and our economy has greatly benefitted from those resources. Since our state has expanded the development of the oil and gas beneath our feet, we have seen the state of Ohio go from our darkest days to now having abundant fiscal resources and build a great revenue surplus.

Throughout my entire life, it has been expressed to me how paramount it is for our nation to become energy independent. With the passage of this resolution, we will not only be taking a step in the right direction by reducing our dependency of foreign resources from countries that wish ill upon the United States, but also putting Ohio on the forefront of leading the way by setting the example for other states to follow suit in our endeavors to ensure our energy independence. We have to lean forward on this opportunity and make what was once a dream, reality.

Chairman Balderson and members of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 14. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.