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WRITTEN TESTIMONY | Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senate Concurrent Resolution 14
October 10, 2017

Chairman Balderson, Vice-Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing to you to discuss Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 and its impact on the Central Ohio business community.

My name is Alex Fischer and I serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Columbus Partnership, an organization comprised of Columbus' top business leaders and dedicated to improving the economic and cultural base of the Columbus Region. In collaboration with Columbus 2020, we lead economic development efforts and protect the interests of our members throughout the region.

I am writing today to protect one such interest, and that is the manipulation of oil prices by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the resulting effect on Columbus business initiatives. The Ohio and Columbus economies are supported by an abundance of energy resources and competitive markets. The possible manipulation of the global oil market by OPEC endangers Ohio's oil and natural resource production, and in turn contributes to losses within the Ohio jobs market. In addition to a reduction in employment, Columbus businesses will suffer from investment losses caused by uncertainty in the market. It is critical that we protect the jobs and industries that bolster our economy.

The Columbus Partnership encourages this committee to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 14. This is an important step toward policy that protects Ohio job markets, consumers and innovation. Policy leaders and the business community members must work together to ensure the continued competitiveness and progress of our region and our state.

I thank Chairman Balderson and the members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for acknowledging my concerns and for considering Senate Concurrent Resolution 14.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex R. Fischer".

Alex R. Fischer
President and CEO