



**Ohio Coal Association Testimony – HB 386**  
**Ohio House Economic & Workforce Development Committee**  
**Written Testimony**

Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony today in support of HB 386, which creates the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program. My name is Mike Cope and I am the President of the Ohio Coal Association. The Ohio Coal Association is dedicated to representing the interests of Ohio's underground and surface coal producers. The Ohio Coal Association represents nearly all of Ohio's coal producers and dozens of associate members. Collectively, we represent every aspect of the regional coal industry, including coal production, equipment manufacturing and supply, electric power generation, engineering, coal transportation, blasting and other similar enterprises.

As you can imagine, the coal industry in Ohio heavily utilizes truck drivers, both in our daily operations at our sites, as well as in transporting coal to processing plants. The qualified and trained drivers operating within the industry play a large role in helping ensure that Ohio's consumers have access to reliable electricity. Trucks offer an extremely versatile transportation option to our members as they can operate nearly anywhere in Ohio. Nevertheless, the driver shortage has made transporting coal by trucks more difficult than ever.

The Ohio Coal Association supports Ohio's efforts to address the driver shortage facing the trucking industry. HB 386 will assist in removing the financial barrier many individuals face when attending CDL school and will hopefully result in more, highly trained drivers entering Ohio's workforce. I would like to thank the Representatives Hoops and Sobecki for introducing HB 386 and urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael Cope  
President, Ohio Coal Association