



Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Senate Bill 2  
Proponent Testimony  
Cargill  
December 3, 2019

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 2, which would create a Statewide Watershed Planning and Management Program and create a watershed coordinator in each watershed to collaborate with organizations representing agriculture, conservation the environment, and higher education to establish a certification for farmers that utilize practices designed to minimize impacts to water quality.

We applaud the General Assembly's leadership on this important issue and understand that having a robust coordination of all of our water quality efforts will create a foundation for the collective work of water quality endeavors.

Cargill provides food, agriculture, financial and industrial products and services to the world. Together with farmers, customers, governments and communities, we help people thrive by applying our insights and over 150 years of experience. We have 150,000 employees in 70 countries that are committed to feeding the world in a responsible way, reducing environmental impact, and improving the communities where we live and work. With deep roots in Ohio, we operate 13 facilities and employ more than 1,400 people.

Cargill has invested more than \$970 million in Ohio with future plans for expansion and growth. In fact, we recently announced an expansion of approximately \$225 million at the Sidney site, increasing crush capacity and modernizing operations. The investment creates greater market access for farmers' crops in the area and allows those farmers to deliver their soybeans more efficiently, as the upgraded plant will unload trucks at a much faster rate. The expansion of the crush plant will provide Cargill's adjacent refined oils facility with a larger, direct supply of crude soybean oil. When the expansion is complete in 2022, Cargill expects to add approximately 12 full-time jobs to the team of 325 currently employed at Sidney. In addition to these new jobs and the benefits to farmers, the expansion will boost the local economy during construction.

We made \$1.4 million in contributions to nonprofit organizations and paid \$10 million in Ohio taxes last year. We are proud of our Ohio team and operations and support public-private partnerships to address some of our most unique challenges—such as water quality. Cargill works globally to improve water quality in areas impacted by agriculture. Around the world, and here in Ohio, Cargill works with farmer-customers to optimize the use of inputs to maximize yields, reduce runoff and protect watersheds.



Cargill is also a founding member of the Midwest Row Crop Collaborative (MRCC), which unites industry and conservation leaders to improve soil and water quality in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska. Through MRCC, nutrient loss is being reduced and the efficient and sustainable production of commodity crops is being enhanced. This year, MRCC helped fund 20 new demonstration farms in three priority watersheds to test farming practices that can improve soil health, such as decreased tillage, advanced nutrient management, and planting of cover crops.

Cargill is engaging with policy makers and stakeholders here in Ohio to share our best management practices and work from the MRCC. We believe that the Statewide Watershed Planning and Management Program can help accelerate and expand opportunities to promote water quality and soil health and we look forward to being an ally in this process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony to Senate Bill 2.