



Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Senate Bill 2  
Proponent Testimony  
Cargill  
May 22, 2019

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chairman Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the Senate 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. As part of this program, a watershed coordinator in each watershed will collaborate with organizations representing agriculture, environmental conservation, and higher education to establish a certification for farmers that utilize practices designed to minimize negative impacts to water quality.

We applaud the Senate's leadership, especially that of Senators Peterson and Dolan, on this important issue and understand that having a robust coordination of all water quality efforts in Ohio will create a solid 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. Last year, we made \$1.4 million in contributions to nonprofit organizations and paid \$10 million in Ohio taxes. 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 will 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.