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September 29, 2021

#### **Ohio Chemistry Technology Council Written Testimony In Support of House Bill 351**

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, my name is Andy Swaim. I am the Director of Government and External Affairs for the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council (OCTC). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 351 (HB 351).

OCTC is the leading advocate for Ohio's chemistry industry, which is the third largest manufacturing sector in the state. Ohio is also the third largest chemical manufacturing state in the United States. In Ohio, the chemistry technology industry employs nearly 40,000 people, pays an average wage of over \$85,000, and ships more than \$5.6 billion in products worldwide annually.

The OCTC represents manufacturers that require access to affordable, reliable energy to remain competitive in the marketplace. OCTC opposed legislation last General Assembly (GA) that we believe unfairly picked winners and losers in Ohio's competitive energy generation market and benefitted specific electric distribution utilities (EDUs) in the process.

OCTC supports HB 351 as a continued effort to unravel the damaging policies passed in the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. HB 351 would repeal the subsidy for legacy generation sources, which aids two coal-fired power plants (one in Ohio and one in Indiana) that are owned and operated by the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC) and are no longer financially viable.

The OVEC subsidies are not congruent with Ohio's deregulated energy generation policies. OVEC subsidies cost Ohio ratepayers millions annually while providing no added benefit to the reliability or affordability of Ohio's electric grid. OCTC supports this repeal to continue the rebalancing of the state's energy policies, such that utilities are not generating unearned revenues on the backs of consumers.

OCTC urges passage of House Bill 351, and we look forward to being a part of the ongoing discussions regarding the overall energy policy in Ohio moving forward. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today.