



**Ed Spiker, Chairman  
Ohio Coal Association  
House Resolution 469 Proponent Testimony  
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
June 25, 2024**

Chairman Hall, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Ed Spiker and I am the Chairman of the Ohio Coal Association (OCA). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HR 469, to urge the overturning of recently adopted Federal power plant rules.

The OCA is a trade association consisting of members that collectively represent every aspect of the coal industry in Ohio, which directly employs nearly 3,000 individuals and indirectly supports upwards of 33,000 jobs. Coal is a key component in providing Ohio with low-cost, reliable electricity. OCA and our members are committed to advancing the development and utilization of Ohio coal as an abundant, affordable, and environmentally sound energy source. And it should be noted we mine our coal responsibly and various member companies have won state and national awards for our responsible mining.

As you know, the U.S. EPA recently adopted national power plant rules. Simply put, these rules would have a devastating impact on the coal industry in Ohio and throughout the country. It appears the rules are intended to shut down coal plants, which not only puts at risk the thousands of jobs here in Ohio, but also weakens reliability of our energy grid regionally and nationally.

Ohio's coal industry is an important source of generation in Ohio and the region. Ohioans depend on the reliable and affordable electricity our member companies help provide. Demand is skyrocketing, and Ohio is already facing an electricity grid crisis. This isn't hyperbole or conjecture. Simply take a look at recent news reports showing about how the grid in central Ohio cannot handle its power needs. New development can be delayed literally years because the grid cannot handle the power requirements. Passage of the new Federal power plant rules only exacerbates the problem.

Coal-based electricity generation is low-cost, resilient, and the coal can be mined right here in Ohio creating jobs all over the state, from the mines to the ancillary jobs our industry supports.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, 37% of Ohio's electricity is generated with coal.<sup>1</sup> Electricity grid experts were already warning about reliability before adoption of the Federal rules, and there is no adequate replacement for the generating capacity coal provides. There should be room for all types of electric generation—INCLUDING coal.

Utility-scale wind and solar generation are wonderful in theory but are simply not a realistic solution in Ohio. Only 4% of Ohio's electricity is generated by renewables<sup>1</sup>. And technology limitations make other energy options proposed by the rules, like hydrogen and carbon capture, unrealistic alternatives. If these rules are implemented, the result will damage the foundation of energy generation in Ohio and across the country, causing consumer bills to skyrocket and severely damaging our economy. Again I refer you to the recent notices from AEP that the grid cannot handle all the new business expected to need power in Ohio in the coming years.

It is imperative that implementation of these Federal rules does not go forward. Passing HR 469 is one step towards helping prevent this misguided government overreach and the devastating consequences that would follow. Coal is a reliable and resilient fuel that can bring energy costs down and continue to bring prosperity to Ohioans, just like our industry has proudly done for over a century. But these rules must be stopped for the industry, not to mention the grid, to survive.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HR 469. We appreciate your attention to this very important issue and your support for Ohio's coal industry and all Ohioans, who benefit from the low-cost, reliable and CLEAN energy coal provides. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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<sup>1</sup> US Energy Information Administration – Ohio Profile  
<https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=OH#:~:text=33%2C34,Coal,U.S.%20estimated%20recoverable%20coal%20reserves.&text=The%20state%20is%20the%20natio n's,largest%20coal%2Dproducing%20state%20overall.>