



Ohio Oil and Gas Association
Proponent Testimony
House Bill 201

House Transportation Committee
Chairman Riordan McClain
June 20, 2022

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Stephanie Kromer, and I am the Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association (OOGA). OOGA is a 75-year-old statewide trade association representing both independent conventional producers and large independent horizontal operators exploring Ohio's shale play. OOGA membership also consists of midstream companies, large-scale transmission line companies, contractors, oilfield service and supply providers, manufacturers, gas utilities and various other professional entities.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony in support of House Bill 201. House Bill 201 does two things; prohibits a state agency, township, or county from restricting the use or sale of a motor vehicle based on its energy source and prohibits the Ohio EPA or any other state agency from adopting any motor vehicle emissions standards that are established by California as a result of California having received a waiver to adopt stricter standards than those required by the federal Clean Air Act.

The bill ensures that Ohio will continue follow the Clean Air Act's strict emissions guidelines, while at the same time reinforcing that Ohio's elected officials and not unelected bureaucracies, will have the decision-making authority in regard to alternative emissions standards.

The bill smartly protects consumer choice by preventing local governments from developing a cumbersome patchwork of local ordinances under potentially unattainable guidelines.

A collection of states have adopted the California standards. These efforts in states to ultimately eliminate the internal combustion engine. There are too many undetermined variables to risk putting Ohio on such a path. A great example is in Maryland. The state's leadership recently announced their intentions to take an aggressive path on mandating electric vehicles that has backfired with the voters indicated by a recent poll in Maryland Matters¹.

By prohibiting state agencies and local governments from interfering in consumer choice, House Bill 201 will protect our state's overall economic competitiveness by preventing a patchwork of regulatory schemes and allowing Ohioans to decide what types of vehicles best suit their needs. For these reasons, the Ohio Oil and Gas Association respectfully asks the committee to favorably report House Bill 201.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony today. I would be happy to try and answer questions from the committee.

¹ <https://www.marylandmatters.org/2023/06/12/poll-about-60-of-marylanders-oppose-plan-to-mandate-electric-car-sales-by-2035/>