



## Ohio Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

### Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 33

Chris Zeigler, Executive Director, API Ohio

May 10, 2023

Chairman Schaffer, Ranking Member Landis, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources - my name is Chris Zeigler, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio office of the American Petroleum Institute (API), or API Ohio.

API Ohio is the state affiliate office of the American Petroleum Institute. The API is a national trade association that represents all segments of America's natural gas and oil industry, which supports more than 11 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. Our approximately six hundred members produce, process, and distribute most of the nation's energy, and participate in API Energy Excellence®, which is accelerating environmental and safety progress by fostering new technologies and transparent reporting. Established in 1919 as a standards-setting organization, the API has developed more than eight hundred standards to enhance operational and environmental safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee and share our concern with a provision in House Bill 33 that creates the Oil and Gas Roadway Repair fund (appropriation item 7256A4) and appropriates \$12 million from the Oil and Gas Well fund (5180) for its use. To be clear, API Ohio is opposed to the transfer of any monies from the Oil and Gas Well Fund (5180) to be used for purposes not related to requirements under Ohio Revised Code §1509.02. We respectfully ask that the newly created Oil and Gas Roadway Repair fund be removed from House Bill 33 and that the Oil and Gas Well fund remain intact for its statutorily required purposes.

Ohio's natural gas and oil industry has long fought to ensure that the scope and purpose of the Oil and Gas Fund is to provide the means necessary to support the Division of Oil and Gas Resource Management's core regulatory and oversight functions related to oil and gas production in Ohio and the state's Orphan Well Program. According to the Ohio Revised Code, "expenses that are critical and necessary for the protection of human health and safety and the environment related to oil and gas production in this state."<sup>1</sup> As an organization founded on standards-making, the API holds this fund—focused on protecting public health and safety—paramount to our core mission.

Thank you for allowing API Ohio the opportunity to present our concerns to the committee, and for your consideration of our request to remove the newly created Oil and Gas Roadway Repair fund from House Bill 33. Safeguarding the Oil and Gas Well Fund for its purposes as required under current law will help ensure the state's ability to protect Ohioans' health and safety.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-1509.02>