



Representative DJ Swearingen

Ohio House District 89

Representative Phil Plummer

Ohio House District 39

HB 205 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Reineke, Ranking-Member Smith, and members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee. Thank you for bringing up HB 205 for sponsor testimony today. This bill looks to establish minimum safety standards for construction work at oil refineries, by providing minimum qualifications for workers performing the construction work at these facilities. The goal is to continue ensuring that anyone working at these facilities can continue to go home to their families at night and that the surrounding communities remain safe and protected.

This legislation is more important than ever as we saw last year, there were several incidents of accidents at refineries here in Ohio. These accidents were during the maintenance phase of the facility, which resulted in two deaths of workers at the facility. This bill, at the end of the day, is about keeping Ohio's workers and our communities safe. These facilities employ thousands of workers, and we want them to succeed and thrive, but we need to make sure that the people who are working on these facilities have the background and knowledge to minimize risks.

As Ohio continues to see a workforce influx from the Gulf Coast and Texas, we believe that it is prudent to set minimum standards for the workforce performing the construction work on these facilities so that there is an assurance that the entire construction workforce is qualified to do the job.

Thank you for your time today, Rep. Plummer and I look forward to answering any questions the committee may have.