



Ohio Oil and Gas Association  
Proponent Testimony  
House Bill 201

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee  
Chairman Bill Reineke  
December 12, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 201.

My name is Rob Brundrett, and I am the President of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association (OOGA). OOGA is a 75-year-old statewide trade association. Our association includes members that represent all aspects of Ohio's oil and gas industry - upstream, midstream, and downstream.

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 certain California emissions standards.

Seventeen states and Washington D.C. have adopted the California vehicle emission standards. Several of these states are now debating whether to reverse course due to California's latest announced standards. Thankfully Ohio is not currently in that position. The bill ensures that Ohio will continue to follow the federal 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 the state's emissions standards.

The bill smartly ensures a state standard to avoid a patchwork of local ordinances for the sale and distribution of motor vehicles. Keeping one statewide standard provides certainty for industry, ensures consumer choice for the vehicle that best fits their needs, and allows the free market to dictate the manufacturing and sales of motor vehicles.

By prohibiting state agencies and local governments from interfering in consumer choice and government market control, House Bill 201 will help maintain our state's overall economic competitiveness and promote a pro-consumer approach when it comes to Ohioans transportation options. 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.