



**Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
The Honorable Bill Reineke, Chairman**

**Proponent Testimony-Senate Resolution 121
Chris Zeigler | API Ohio
January 23, 2024**

Chairman Reineke, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Resolution 121 (S.R. 121).

The American Petroleum Institute-Ohio (API Ohio) is the state affiliate office of the American Petroleum Institute (API). The API represents all segments of America's natural gas and oil industry, which supports nearly 11 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. Our approximately 600 members produce, process, and distribute the majority 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. API was formed in 1919 as a standards-setting organization and has developed more than 800 standards to enhance operational and environmental safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

Senate Resolution 121 rightly recognizes that ensuring Ohio's economic prosperity hinges on the vitality of its natural gas production industry. To secure affordable energy for every Ohioan, continued investment in natural gas infrastructure is imperative. By diversifying the energy mix, reducing reliance on dirtier sources, and ensuring a stable supply, natural gas enhances not only our state's energy security, but the security of the entire nation and our global allies. Moreover, the combustion of natural gas generates lower emissions of carbon dioxide and harmful co-pollutants compared to other energy sources, supporting climate goals and environmental protection efforts. Striking a balance between reliability and environmental responsibility, natural gas plays a significant role in advancing shared energy and environmental objectives.

Earlier this month, the API held its annual State of American Energy (SOAE)¹. One central tenet to this year's event is that although the United States is #1 in the world in energy production and reducing emissions, the American energy advantage is at risk for future generations if we don't reverse course on short-sighted policies, over-eager regulation, and hostility toward American energy. Today, we are seeing record production here in the U.S., but that is:

- Despite the Biden administration finalizing the most restrictive offshore leasing program in history – a program that does not include a single sale in 2024.
- Despite the administration proposing new fees and restrictions for onshore leasing, delaying lease sales, and reducing new acres leased by 96%.

¹ https://events.api.org/reports/soae-2024/?_ga=1*1jvceln*_ga*MTQ3MzE0NTkyNC4xNjc3Njg5NTQ4*_ga_4GE2RKSlyw*MTcwNTYzMTYzEzNy4xNzQuMS4xNzA1NiMzMjMjMjQ4LjAUMjA..

- Despite the administration implementing permitting roadblocks, increasing the time it takes to review an LNG project from 7 weeks to as much as 11 months -- an increase of nearly 600%.
- Despite proposing punitive new taxes on U.S. energy producers during a time of rising interest rates, high inflation, and persistent supply chain challenges.

With high inflation and rising prices that are still straining Americans' finances for goods and services, canceling energy infrastructure projects and layering on unduly burdensome or unnecessary regulation – while asking foreign nations to increase their energy production but simultaneously hamstringing U.S. producers – has proven to be the wrong policy.

America's position as the world's leading energy producer did not happen overnight. It happened because of decades of bipartisan commitment, smart policymaking, and industry innovation.

As we begin this pivotal election year, the API is taking every opportunity to shed light on how there is a better way—an all-of-the-above American energy approach that unleashes energy access, bolsters our infrastructure, and strengthens our security.

The intent of Senate Resolution 121 is much appreciated; however, we would ask if there may be an opportunity to amend the legislation to include the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio to the list of recipients of duly authenticated copies of the Resolution.

As stewards of this great nation, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that we have a long-term strategy that keeps the *Lights On*. That means ensuring energy access by strengthening our energy independence. Yesterday's policies drove the energy we have today; today's policies will drive the energy we have tomorrow.

We need to continue to support our national security by seizing America's energy advantage. The country's vast energy resources are a foundation for security here at home and stability for our allies overseas. Policymakers must focus on a long-term energy agenda that preserves America's energy advantage through the responsible development of our energy resources.

We need to build more American energy infrastructure and accelerate energy innovations. It now takes longer to get a federal permit for an energy infrastructure project than it does to get a college degree. Lifting barriers to modern, innovative infrastructure development is critical to meeting long-term energy demand while accelerating climate progress.

Americans continue to feel the impacts of bad federal policy as it relates to the development of our energy resources. Consumers want policymakers to craft real solutions; focusing on measures that will strengthen our nation's position as the world's leader in natural gas and oil production. Senate Resolution 121 is a clarion call to all policymakers to have a renewed focus on the need for workable policies that will help to maintain American Energy Leadership and keep the *Lights On* for the next generation.