

Chairman of the Board
SCOTT CORBITT
Region Vice-President, State Government Affairs
Anheuser-Busch Companies, LLC

President
RYAN AUGSBURGER



February 18, 2026

Chair Robb Blasdel
House Natural Resources Committee
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Senate Bill 219 – Written Proponent Testimony

Dear Chair Robb Blasdel:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) was created in 1910 with the mission to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. It represents manufacturers of all sizes in every subsector of the industry. Manufacturing is Ohio's largest economic sector, employing nearly 700,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$138 billion annually to the economy.

A strong and reliable energy sector makes Ohio an attractive place to manufacture the goods that are shipped across the nation and around the world. Access to abundant, dependable energy is one of the primary factors manufacturers consider when determining where to build a new facility or invest in existing operations.

Substitute Senate Bill 219 represents the first comprehensive update to Ohio's oil and gas laws since 2012. In that time, Ohio's energy production has grown significantly, now ranking seventh nationally in natural gas production and tenth in crude oil production. This growth underscores the importance of ensuring our statutory and regulatory framework keeps pace with industry advancements.

The OMA is generally supportive of Senate Bill 219 and recognizes the need to modernize Ohio's laws to better align with technological progress and operational realities that have emerged over the past decade. A key provision of the bill strengthens protections for the Oil and Gas Well Fund, helping ensure the responsible and efficient plugging of Ohio's orphan wells—a priority widely shared across stakeholders and essential to maintaining Ohio's leadership in this area.

The bill also makes several important updates to operational law, including revisions related to drilling permits, gathering line tax clarification, state lands leasing procedures, and cross-state drilling authority.

The OMA urges the committee to move this bill forward and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindsey Short".

Lindsey Short
Managing Director, Advocacy and Energy Services
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association