



February 18, 2026

Chairman Robb Blasdel, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Natural Resources Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 219.

My name is Don Huck. I am Exploration Manager for Artex Oil Company based in Marietta, Ohio. Artex is an independent oil and gas producer which has operated in Ohio since the 1970's

Artex Oil Company is in support of all aspects of SB 219, in particular, the following portions:

Oil and Gas Well Fund

As there are tens of thousands of orphan wells in Ohio, the monies in the Oil and Gas Well Fund must be protected today to ensure the ability of the Division of Oil and Gas to plug orphan wells far into the future. Future monies to be paid into the Oil and Gas Well Fund must be safeguarded for successful completion of that effort. The momentum of the orphan well plugging program is gaining rapidly and can only be maintained with assurance the Oil and Gas Well Fund is protected from future raids.

Expedited Drilling and Plugging Permit Review

Expedited permit review has been in the statute for many years and has worked effectively. Recent industry changes created an overload of this portion of the statute causing an interruption to this review process. With a limit of ten (10) expedited permit reviews per operator per year, the Expedited Drilling and Plugging Permit Review should be reinstated requiring the Division of Oil and Gas to follow this portion of the statute.

Simultaneous Operations

Simultaneous operations can be conducted safely with the appropriate precautions. Well pad construction and operations vary between well operators. An operator should be able to maintain production operations while performing other adjacent well operations with a written plan created distinctly for a particular well pad and operations criteria.

Statute of Limitations – Oil and Gas Lease Termination Action

The statute of limitations for lease termination litigation should be consistent with other real estate contracts which is six (6) years after the cause of the action is accrued.



Orphaned Wells

The current title and public notice for orphaned wells consumes valuable time without any cost benefit for the State of Ohio. The number of times an operator or individual has come forward to dispute title and public notice on an orphan well is almost, if not, zero. The title and public notice requirements for orphaned wells should be eliminated and replaced with a notice provision posted to the public and a physical notice at the well.

Chairwoman Robb Blasdel and members of the House Natural Resources Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 219.