



OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February 18, 2026

Before the Ohio House Natural Resources Committee
Interested Party Testimony Senate Bill 219

Chair Blasdel, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on Senate Bill 219 on behalf of the members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. My name is Tony Long, General Counsel and Director of Energy & Environmental Policy at the Ohio Chamber.

SB 219 has the capacity to reform oil and gas exploration and gathering in the same manner as House Bill 15 did for delivery of electricity to Ohio consumers and businesses. SB 219 has needed provisions concerning orphan well, reforms to reflect the new methods of horizontal drilling and updates to statutory provisions. Additionally, the bill includes language from House Bill 522 concerning federal mineral royalty payments received under federal law from oil, gas, or other mineral production on federal lands within Ohio. Currently, any such payments are consumed by the state and there is no line of sight to direct the money back to each county where a federal mineral royalty is attributable.

My testimony will focus on the need for stronger language to meet the new economy and give the industry the tools needed to bring products to market.

As the new methods of oil and gas exploration and extraction were developed it revolutionized the industry and allowed for more mineral recovery than with traditional methods. At the same time Ohio discovered it was sitting on top a very large oil and gas basin commonly referred to as the Utica Shale. Some of that basin is under state owned land. And even after a governor opened that land to exploration, it took 10 years for regulators to develop a lease. That action was forced by House Bill 507 passed in 2022. To this day the use of that standard lease is fraught with delays and difficult negotiations.

SB 219 is the opportunity to legislatively address the regulatory frustrations faced by not only the industry but by nearby landowners awaiting use of their land and the royalty payments that can build generational wealth. The Ohio Chamber supports the amendments in the Senate that amends rules and procedures that currently cause delays in nominations and awards. Much like HB15 this legislation will create shorter review periods and requires the standard oil and gas lease used by state agencies to include an option to extend the primary term of the lease for an additional five years, instead of three years under current law.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this proponent testimony on SB 219. The Ohio Chamber looks forward to working with this committee and the Ohio House on this important piece of legislation. I will now attempt to answer any questions you may have for me.
