



OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 28, 2025

Before the Ohio Senate Energy Committee Proponent Testimony Senate Bill 219

Chair Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, and Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy 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 / Senate 2 did for delivery of electricity to Ohio consumers and businesses. SB 219 has many needed provisions concerning orphan well, reforms to reflect the new methods of horizontal drilling and updates to some statutory provisions. While the Ohio Chamber is providing proponent testimony additional provisions could make the legislation stronger to benefit Ohio's economy.

Many witnesses last week provided testimony on the importance of moving quickly to plug orphaned wells and the need for dedicated funds to keep the work going to protect communities and landowners from historical wells that need remediation. 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 that land was opened 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 has been 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. This legislation could be a vehicle to amend rules and procedures that cause delays in nominations and awards. Much like HB15/SB 2 this legislation could create shorter review periods and allow for automatic awards if a state agency misses a timeframe for review. This includes consideration of the state lands leasing provisions the governor vetoed in the budget and a review of the standard lease.

SB 219 could also be a vehicle to speed up environmental review processes and curb delays caused by the current process. At a time of permitting reform in Washington and here in Ohio for energy generation siting, SB 219 could be a legislative vehicle to add the oil and gas exploration and gathering industries to the list of other sectors benefiting from permitting reforms. The need for the minerals under our feet is more critical than ever. Ohio and the PJM region face growing electricity demands and gas is the fuel that meet the short-term moment of increased electricity demand while other base load fuels develop and mature.

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