



November 4, 2025

Senate Energy Committee  
Craig Butler, Executive Director  
Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 219

Chairman Chavez, Vice Chairman Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 219 (SB 219), my name is Craig Butler, and I am the Executive Director of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD).

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 219 (SB 219), which represents an important next step in Ohio's ongoing leadership in responsible energy development.

As the former Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Policy Advisor for Governor John R. Kasich, I had the privilege of helping craft and advance Senate Bill 315 in 2012, a landmark piece of legislation that established the framework for responsible shale development in our state. That bipartisan effort modernized our oil and gas laws to balance environmental protection, public safety, and economic opportunity — a balance that remains essential today.

Over the past decade, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) has demonstrated what responsible oil and gas development can achieve when guided by sound regulation and stewardship. Through carefully managed leasing, reinvestment in conservation projects, and community partnerships, MWCD's program has contributed to over \$1 billion in regional economic impact while protecting water quality, restoring lands, and supporting recreational access across eastern Ohio.

Senate Bill 219 continues that legacy. By strengthening the integrity of the Oil and Gas Well Fund, modernizing permitting and plugging processes, and aligning Ohio's oil and gas laws with current industry realities, this legislation ensures that Ohio remains a model for environmentally responsible, economically beneficial energy policy.

I commend Senator Landis and the General Assembly for their leadership on this important issue and urge the Committee's favorable consideration of SB 219.

Chairman Chavez, Vice Chairman Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 219.

**BRYCE BROWNING BUILDING**

1319 Third Street NW, New Philadelphia, OH 44663

▪ Toll-Free: (877) 363-8500 ▪ [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org)