



4 June 2025

My name is Dr. Timothy Fisher, a geology professor from The University of Toledo who works with personnel from the Ohio Geological Survey (OGS).

My testimony below gives a few examples of the important work done by the OGS, and I offer support to increase the percentage of oil and gas severance taxes credited to the Geological Mapping Fund (Fund 5110), from 10% to 14%, and decrease the percentage to the Oil and Gas Well Fund (Fund 5180), from 90% to 86%.

I contribute time to the OGS State Mapping Advisory Council that assists with the prioritization of mapping locations across the state. Population growth and societal needs of groundwater, and other resources are important considerations that go into determining future geologic mapping locations. The production of geological maps requires knowing the type of sediment at the ground surface and the underlying bedrock to understand movement of fluids (water, oil, gas). Geologic maps are used by industry, private and public corporations as they assess future development at sites throughout the state. Such knowledge can protect resources in some areas while generating new opportunities for development in others.

I work with OGS karst geologists to understand sinkhole formation. The recognition of sinkholes is necessary for any future development in which foundations could be imperiled by ground subsidence (wind farms, pipelines, roadways, buildings) and movement of groundwater and its contamination. Ongoing mapping efforts continue to identify new sinkholes across Ohio.

Surficial geology mapping identifies new sources of sand and gravel (aggregate) and the study of such deposits leads to generating models that can better predict where additional sources can be found. Our society is highly dependent upon aggregate for roads, rail, building foundations, dam construction, and at any future construction sites.

Resources that are increasing in value include groundwater and critical minerals. It is in the best interests of the public that state agencies are appropriately funded to continue basic research and mapping of resources that support the citizens of Ohio and are a foundational springboard for further investigation/development by private entities.

Sincerely,

Timothy G. Fisher
Professor of Geology