



Ohio Oil and Gas Association
Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 103

Senate Public Utilities Committee
Senator Shane Wilkin, Chairman

Chairman Wilkin and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 103.

My name is Rob Brundrett, and I am the President of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association (OOGA). OOGA is a 78-year-old statewide trade association that includes members representing all aspects of Ohio's oil and gas industry - upstream, midstream, and downstream.

Ohio has a long and proud history regarding natural gas development. Ohio is currently the nation's seventh largest natural gas producer. The Appalachian Basin, consisting of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio, is the third largest natural gas producing region in the world, trailing only the rest of the United States and Russia. Ohio and the entire region holds a unique strategic advantage below our feet. OOGA is supportive of all efforts to drive more economic development and new markets using Ohio-produced natural gas.

Senate Bill 103 makes a variety of changes to the ratemaking process for natural gas utilities in Ohio. I am certainly not an expert regarding the ratemaking provisions of this bill. And while you either will or have heard from a variety of distribution utility experts on the merits and technical nuances of these changes and their importance, my focus is on the larger picture regarding large natural gas users and economic development.

As mentioned before, Ohio has a great advantage compared to our peers throughout the Midwest. We are able to utilize large amounts of affordable and abundant natural gas below Ohio's surface. Ohio and its leaders are laser focused on building Ohio's economy through large scale manufacturing and by increasing electricity generation in Ohio. Examples of these policy priorities include House Bill 15 and Senate Bill 2.

Because of our abundance and the global marketplace that runs on natural gas, Ohio should explore all opportunities to invest in the state using our resources. Creating fair mechanisms to promote increased natural gas usage so that the state and its citizens benefit should be a top priority. This legislation provides a building block for increasing both the scale and efficiency of energy and manufacturing projects throughout our state by providing alternative rates for the largest projects and natural gas users. This will allow us to keep more of our natural gas in Ohio so that the benefits from production, transportation, and ultimately end use stay within the state's borders.

Senate Bill 103 provides an opportunity to efficiently deploy Ohio's abundant natural gas. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we urge you to support Senate Bill 103. I would be happy to try and answer any questions.