



Ohio Oil and Gas Association
Proponent Testimony
House Bill 227

Senate Public Utilities Committee
Senator Shane Wilkin, Chairman
November 5, 2025

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the Senate Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 227.

My name is Stephanie, and I am the Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs at 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.

For nearly 30 years, the Ohio Gas Producers Underground Protection Service (OGPUPS) worked in conjunction with the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) to enable oil and gas producers to protect their underground systems. In 2018, OOGA closed down OGPUPS and merged it into the rebranded OHIO811 nameplate and never looked back. Our membership has been pleased with the consolidation, which eased utility notification and legal compliance for Ohioans and anyone else involved in property excavation projects in the state. Much like that decision, this legislation is another great example of differing interests coming together to put forward solutions to help Ohioans.

House Bill 227 makes several changes to Ohio's laws involving the state's 811 services. Most importantly, the bill changes the mandatory wait time from "at least 48 hours but not more than 10 working days before commencing excavation" to "at least two working days, not including the day of the notification, but not more than sixteen calendar days before commencing excavation."

By making this change the law will provide utilities and their agents with the ability to better manage and locate their facilities in the time outlined, which will assist in creating safer work environments. Moving to 16 calendar days will help eliminate confusion and better define what is considered a working day. This change will also bring Ohio into alignment with other states, which will help those who work in multiple states.

The bill also clearly lists what activities are exempt from the excavation per the Protection Services Law. These "low risk" activities will provide more clarity in the statute for those doing this type of work.

House Bill 227 provides needed clarity to an already good law. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we urge you to support House Bill 227. I would be happy to try and answer any questions.