



Ohio Coal Association Testimony – HB 284
Ohio House Insurance Committee
Written Testimony

Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony today in support of HB 284. My name is Mike Cope and I am the Acting President of the Ohio Coal Association. The Ohio Coal Association is dedicated to representing the interests of Ohio's underground and surface coal producers. The Ohio Coal Association represents nearly all of Ohio's coal producers and dozens of associate members. Collectively, we represent every aspect of the regional coal industry, including coal production, equipment manufacturing and supply, electric power generation, engineering, coal transportation, blasting and other similar enterprises.

As you can imagine, the coal industry in Ohio heavily utilizes truck drivers, both in our daily operations at our sites, as well in transporting coal to processing plants. The qualified and trained drivers operating within the industry play a large role in helping insure that Ohio's consumers have access to reliable electricity. Trucks offer an extremely versatile transportation option to our members as they can operate nearly anywhere in Ohio. Nevertheless, the driver shortage has made transporting coal by trucks more difficult than ever.

As you have heard in previous testimony, attracting young people to the trucking industry is extremely difficult due to the cost of providing insurance to young drivers. HB 284 will bring stakeholders together to examine ways the state can address this challenge. If successful, young people from Ohio and surrounding states would be attracted to our state to pursue profitable careers with companies operating in Ohio. The Ohio Coal Association supports this effort and would like to thank Rep. Antani for introducing HB 284.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Cope". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Michael Cope
President, Ohio Coal Association