



Sponsor Testimony

State Representative Brian Baldrige

House Bill 235

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to stand before you today to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 235. The intent of this bill is to ensure that we have a consistent high standard for safety both for the sake of our workers as well as for our communities. Accidents at the sites covered in this legislation can have wide ranging impacts beyond the refinery itself.

As many of you know I have spent my career as a fire medic. Throughout my career I saw first-hand when the fire service was reactive and not proactive. I witnessed when we made changes due to an event that had consequences. We want to be proactive moving into the future of safety for our workers and citizens in the great state of Ohio.

We do not want to wait until an accident happens to examine what an appropriate standard for safety across the board might look like. I look forward to working through this committee process, as well as with the industry leaders themselves, to proactively protect Ohioans and our communities that neighbor these sites.

I sincerely commend the strong safety record of the petroleum industry. Additionally, I have been a vocal supporter of the industry in our state as well as in our region and the introduction of this bill respects the importance of the petroleum industry to our state. We simply want to ensure that anyone who may be in our state to work at these potentially hazardous sites have all completed a uniformed level of safety training regardless of which refinery they're working for or where they may reside.

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to stand before you today and I would be glad to answer any questions.