

Dear Chairman Stephens, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Weinstein, and Committee Members:

My name is G. Kent McCoy. I am an 8th generation land and mineral owner in southeast Ohio and the 9th generation is coming up behind me. I am writing to you today to express my concerns about HB-152 and the changes it proposes to the existing forced pooling statutes for oil and gas in Ohio.

Thru the generations our family has been and remains pro farming and mineral development. The mining, drilling and production of hydrocarbons has been part of the community and my family for well over a century and has helped put three generations of my family thru college, supported the church, the local schools, helped improve farms & pay off mortgages, heated our homes, paid medical bills and etc Having been on both the development and royalty sides of the equation we understand the importance of clear, smart and appropriate policies that support the continued development of minerals in our literal world class bounty here in southeast Ohio.

The current laws support the delicate balance between good faith bargaining and ‘taking’. Clearly no one landowner should be able to obstruct a unit for all of his/her surrounding neighbors, but by the same token, no oil & gas producer should be able to bully a family into usurious terms that will be in effect for decades to come, if not the rest of their lives.

As written, HB 152 would seriously & unfairly tilt the balance of power in favor of oil and gas producers and further handicap already challenged small land & mineral owners who attempt to negotiate in good faith with well & superiorly resourced national and international companies. Several other states with successful mineral development don’t even have forced pooling and yet somehow make it work. **Here in Ohio, forced pooling was to be a limited tool of ‘last resort’ when all other good faith efforts had been exhausted, rather than be used a cudgel.** Were HB 152 to be passed, I legitimately believe that its use, **or** the threat of its use, would become common practice. If passed, would this bill be in the best interests of your constituents? I think not.

Additionally, the changes in royalty language, the 300% clause, reduced bonus, negation of previously negotiated lease/contract addendum terms, time line changes and the non-disclosure of information are also equally egregious. Don’t we all want more transparency and fairness? Would these types of coerced and conscripted changes be promoted or tolerated in any other realm? Do we really need to 'balance the books' on the backs of the small multi-generational farmers and mineral owners?

Everyone can prosper and minerals can be profitably developed with fair, balanced and common sense rules & regulations. HB 152 as currently proposed and written **does not** rise to these standards.

I hope during the process of your deliberations, and certainly before you vote on these proposed changes, that you will consider speaking with and listening to the folks who will be most negatively impacted by these proposed changes; your constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

G. K. McCoy