



Testimony Before the Ohio House Energy & Natural Resources Committee

December 8, 2021

Chair Stephens, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Ohio House Energy & Natural Resources Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 430.

My name is Matthew Hammond, President of the Ohio Oil & Gas Association. Founded in 1947, OOGA is a statewide trade association, today serving about 1,300 members. This includes both small, independent conventional producers and large independent horizontal operators exploring Ohio's shale play. Our membership also consists of midstream companies, large-scale transmission line companies, contractors, oilfield service and supply providers, manufacturers, gas utilities and various other professional entities.

The Association works with its member companies to promote common-sense policies that promote safety for both the public it serves and for the thousands of employees that make up the industry. The passage and enactment of House Bill 430, otherwise known as Advanced Notification Legislation (ANL), will be a major positive step toward this objective.

This legislation will ensure open communication between developers and pipeline operators prior to the construction of a new development. We believe this dialogue will help mitigate any potential concerns or issues by making developers aware of a pipeline's existence and exact location. This, in turn, will help developers factor the location of facilities into their design projects, as well as give pipeline operators adequate time to make adjustments if needed.

It is in the best interest of both Ohio's residents and its public servants to ensure the about 10,000 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines in the state continue to operate safely. Establishing and maintaining open communication between developers and operators, through the provisions outlined in HB 430, will grant greater protections from third-party accidents, such as during the excavation or construction stages of development.

The Ohio Oil & Gas Association takes great pride in representing an industry that employs more than 208,000 Ohioans and that provides affordable, abundant energy for the over 11 million residents of the state. Our operators are committed to doing the job in a manner that is safe for both their fellow industry workers and the people they serve. We are supportive of House Bill 430 because we believe it is yet another helpful tool in protecting the health and safety of all Ohioans.

Again, thank you to the committee for providing me the opportunity to offer testimony today.