



**Before the Senate Energy and Public Utilities
Proponent Testimony on Senate Resolution 176
September 14th, 2021**

Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, my name is Stephanie Kromer, and I am the Director of Energy and Environmental Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Resolution 176.

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate, and we represent small and large companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

Ohio's abundant shale gas and oil resources have been transforming the domestic energy scene for the past several years. Not only is Ohio's shale industry the fourth largest in the United States, but the buckeye state is also home to major oil and natural gas company headquarters.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute, natural gas makes up 43% of Ohio's electricity mix, which allows our state to enjoy residential retail prices for 12.2 cents per kilowatt hour. This is roughly 6.7% below the national average. Federal policymakers must realize that by hampering our country's domestic energy development they are not only inflicting economic hardship at the national level, but they are also obstructing Ohio's energy renaissance.

The United States cannot afford to relinquish its hard-earned spot as the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas, but this is exactly what is at risk with actions such as disproportionately increasing the tax burden on the industry or revoking energy infrastructure projects such as the Keystone XL's pipeline. As a state particularly well situated to benefit from several shale plays, Ohio is in a position to fuel a post-pandemic economic resurgence powered by affordable and reliable domestic sources of energy with many of these benefits already flowing to Ohio's communities and workforce. Ohio would be particularly devastated by any federal efforts to reduce or stop oil and gas extraction and transportation activities.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Resolution 176 which we urge the committee to favorably report for consideration.