

September 14, 2021

Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, I wish to thank you for allowing Consumer Energy Alliance the opportunity to offer written proponent testimony on Senate Resolution 176.

On behalf of CEA and our more than 90,000 individual members in the Great Lakes Region, I wish to share our strong support of Senate Resolution 176 which lends an important voice in defending Ohio's energy industry – an industry which sustains families across the state not just through employment, but also through reducing energy costs and increasing energy security.

Twice a year, Cleveland State University releases statistics on the economic impact Ohio's oil and natural gas industry has on economic development across the state. The most recent release by CSU reported that total investment since 2011 in Ohio reached \$90.6 billion. More than just investing in critical energy infrastructure and facilities, the oil and gas industry has invested in Ohioans. The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services found that core shale-related employment increased over 77 percent with an average family-sustaining wage of \$81,749 per year.

Yet, creating jobs for Ohioans is only one of the benefits provided by our energy industry. The energy produced here in our state has helped to decrease the energy burden felt by millions of families and local businesses. According to a recent study, Ohio's energy consumers saved more than \$50 billion between 2006 and 2019 as a result of expanded and modernized natural gas infrastructure.

While this economic growth and increase in energy production was occurring, key environmental indicators monitored by the U.S. EPA demonstrated that that state's environment has been improving significantly. The levels of all six key pollutants tracked by the U.S. EPA improved, falling by in some cases more than 94%. That success does not include the 16% decrease in carbon dioxide emissions.

If the federal government decides to shortsightedly eliminate intangible drilling costs (IDCs) – a key component in ensuring the continued success of Ohio's energy industry and environmental improvements – Ohioans will be severely impacted.

While we all agree that evolving to a cleaner, more diverse energy supply is necessary, with wind turbines and solar farms being built across Ohio, eliminating IDCs will only harm families and yield no environmental benefits. It will lead to reduced investment in our state. In turn, this will eliminate more than just jobs which pay family-sustaining wages. Eliminating IDCs will lead to greater dependence on foreign energy and increase the prices families and businesses pay for energy – from natural gas to heat their homes to gasoline and diesel which fuel their lives.

This is why Senate Resolution 176 is critically important for consumers and why we urge the committee to pass this legislation.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Resolution 176 which we urge the committee to favorably report for consideration. Should the committee have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at cventura@consumerenergyalliance.org.