



**Ohio Senate Committee on Energy and Public Utilities
The Honorable Rob McColley, Chairman**

**Proponent Testimony on
Senate Bill 430
Chris Zeigler | API Ohio
May 24, 2022**

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee - thank you for the opportunity to allow API Ohio to provide proponent testimony on House Bill (HB) 430.

The American Petroleum Institute-Ohio (API Ohio) is a division of the American Petroleum Institute (API). The API represents all segments of America's natural gas and oil industry, which supports more than 11 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. Our nearly 600 members produce, process, and distribute the majority of the nation's energy, and participate in *API Energy Excellence*, which is accelerating environmental and safety progress by fostering new technologies and transparent reporting. API was formed in 1919 as a standards-setting organization and has developed more than 800 standards to enhance operational and environmental safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

Safety is the natural gas and oil industry's highest priority, including the protection of public health and safety, the environment, and underground infrastructure. The API supports the safe, reliable, and uninterrupted delivery of energy products to consumers via pipeline, one of the most environmentally friendly and safest mode of transporting energy that Americans rely on every day.

Excavation damage continues to be one the largest sources of significant incidents, including fatalities, injuries, and releases in the environment. Consequently, we support the provisions within HB 430 creating a uniform notification requirement to pipeline operators within 660 feet of development prior to construction. This early communication is consistent with federal regulations and multiple states have introduced or enacted similar bills to harmonize state and federal guidelines.

Furthermore, we appreciate changes made to the bill streamlining the notification process by utilizing the state's 811 Call Before You Dig system, rather than creating an additional system.

We applaud Representative Cross' efforts to create a safer Ohio, and accordingly, we respectfully urge you and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee to favorably report this legislation.