



May 31, 2022

The Honorable Dick Stein
Chairman
Commerce and Labor Committee
77 S. High St., 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: House Bill 235 Written Opponent Testimony

Dear Chairman Stein:

The Ohio Oil and Gas Association (OOGA) is a statewide trade association formed in 1947 representing both independent conventional producers and large independent horizontal operators exploring Ohio's shale play. OOGA membership also consists of midstream and downstream companies all playing an important role in the exploration, production, processing, transportation and refining of Ohio's oil and natural gas.

Our industry employs more than 208,000 Ohioans that provide affordable, abundant energy for all our state's citizens. Our members are committed to doing the job in a manner that is safe for both their fellow industry workers and the people they serve.

House Bill 235 creates a government mandated labor quota system, forcing Ohio refineries to hire only certain contractors or subcontractors who participated in specific apprenticeship programs. This law requires refineries to hire these individuals even if they are not the best equipped to handle the position. House Bill 235 would create a dangerous precedent – allowing government to step into the shoes of an employer and dictating who is best suited for a job.

Work inside a refinery is highly technical and specialized. Refineries need flexibility to hire the most experienced and safest contractors available to perform work inside the facility. Handcuffing the employer and limiting the available pool of eligible workers will potentially cause issues regarding work timeframes and more importantly may jeopardize health and safety of workers and contractors.

House Bill 235 is not necessary for Ohio's oil and gas industry. The bill will only add challenges to an already challenged industry. Instead of working against our refineries, government should be working with them to help craft good energy policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on the bill. We would urge the committee members to vote no on House Bill 235. You can contact me with any questions at rob@ooga.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Brundrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Rob Brundrett
President