



**Proponent Testimony**  
**Senate Resolution 259**  
**Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee**  
**December 13, 2022**

Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member Martin, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee. On behalf of the Ohio Coal Association, I would like to express our support for SR 259, which would urge the federal government to implement policies to ensure America becomes energy independent by encouraging the production of domestic crude oil, natural gas, and coal resources.

Coal-fired and other thermal power plants are necessary to maintain a reliable and stable electric grid. The coal fleet in particular has continued to provide affordable power and is critical to ensure grid reliability and resiliency. The coal fleet is responsible for over 20 percent of the U.S. electricity needs and totals approximately 200,000 megawatts (MW) of electric generation capacity. Coal-fired generation is vital for America to become energy independent, as the U.S. has over 252 billion tons of recoverable coal reserves. That's more than 450 years of coal at current production levels. Unfortunately, half of the existing coal fleet in America has announced plans to retire by the end of 2030 and, because of federal regulations, premature retirement of coal-fired power plants will likely continue.

One just needs to look at the growing blackouts experienced in portions of America or at catastrophic events like the "polar vortex" to appreciate the importance of a reliable and resilient electricity grid. A reliable grid is one that always has an adequate supply of electricity. Unlike other forms of energy, coal is fuel secure and dispatchable 24/7. It is not dependent on weather or "just-in-time" fuel delivery. A resilient grid means one that can withstand and recover quickly from disturbances, like extreme weather and natural disasters. With on-site fuel, coal-fired power plants are essential to support grid resiliency, enabling a quicker recovery from disturbances.

Ohio's coal fleet has a long history of providing affordable, reliable, and resilient electricity to consumers. We appreciate Senator Schaffer's work on SR 259 as it sends a message to the federal government, that America should work to strengthen its energy security and cease the implementation of policies that jeopardize our energy independence. For these reasons we support SR 259.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Spiker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ed Spiker  
Chairman  
Ohio Coal Association