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## Monica Robb Blasdel State Representative

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Families and Aging  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Finance  
Finance, Subcommittee on  
Transportation

Chairman Hall, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, and my colleagues on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 358, which declares intent for the legislature to regulate carbon capture and storage.

Before I begin, I want to note that I am fortunate to be joined today by industry experts working in the field of carbon capture and storage: Jennifer Stewart, director of corporate policy at the American Petroleum Institute, and Neeraj Gupta, Technical Director for Carbon Management at Battelle. I hope to give you an overview of carbon capture and why it is important for the legislature to act, but any technical questions may be more clearly answered by those experts.

With that housekeeping aside, I will now move on to the body of my testimony.

Simply put, carbon capture and storage, or CCS, is the process of capturing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from industrial sources and geologically storing them, safely and securely, deep underground for long-term storage in Class VI injection wells. The deployment of CCS supports domestic energy security. While federal and international law and regulations require decarbonization, oil and gas are still expected to remain a significant part of the energy mix. By capturing emissions from the use of oil and gas, CCS supports both the achievement of climate goals and domestic energy security, helping ensure access to cleaner, more affordable energy. Because of the prevalence of porous shale rock in the Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio tri-state area, Ohio is an excellent candidate for Class VI Injection wells.

However, the procedure that allows an interested company to operate a Class VI injection well is convoluted. Obtaining a permit through the unproductive federal government is possible, but it often takes years. Some states, like Wyoming, Louisiana, and North Dakota, have taken the initiative to gain primacy for Class VI injection wells. This means that, instead of interested parties going through the USEPA, they can apply directly to the state to operate a Class VI well. You can see the advantage here—this is drawing considerable business to states who have already sought primacy and developed a regulatory framework for carbon capture and storage.

Make no mistake—carbon capture technology is coming. If Ohio takes the initiative to establish Class VI Injection Well Primacy, we can communicate that Ohio is ready to compete with other states and that we are open for business. Because we have not acted, preferring to leave it to the Biden Administration, we are losing investment.

Regulating carbon capture and storage ourselves also means that the individuals who are responsible for regulatory compliance will be OHIOANS. They will have a vested interest in

ensuring that safety regulations are followed and can be on the site rapidly if anything goes wrong. Creating a regulatory framework for carbon capture and storage will ensure that the process, from start to finish, is done by Ohioans, for Ohioans. We cannot rely on the bloated and inefficient federal government to look out for the interests of Ohioans. It is time to take the reins ourselves.

I am working with interested parties to get a draft of a sub bill together that I look forward to presenting to the committee at later hearings. Thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony; I am confident that we will be able to create a quality bill for Ohioans through the committee process. Thank you.