



**House Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development, and Natural Resources**

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 33**

**Chris Zeigler, Executive Director, API Ohio**

**March 21, 2023**

Chairman Jones, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development, and Natural Resources - my name is Chris Zeigler, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio office of the American Petroleum Institute (API), or API Ohio.

API Ohio is the state affiliate office of the American Petroleum Institute. 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 approximately 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee regarding our concerns with provisions in House Bill 33 that allows for the transfer of funds from the Oil and Gas Well Fund to purposes not related to current statutory requirements under Ohio Revised Code §1509.02. To be clear, API Ohio is opposed to the transfer of monies from the Oil and Gas Well Fund to the All Ohio Future Fund and to other funds used by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

Ohio's natural gas and oil industry has long fought to ensure that the scope and purpose of the Oil and Gas Fund is to provide the means necessary to support the Division of Oil and Gas Resource Management's core regulatory and oversight functions related to oil and gas production in Ohio and the state's Orphan Well Program. According to the Ohio Revised Code, "expenses that are critical and necessary for the protection of human health and safety and the environment related to oil and gas production in this state."<sup>1</sup> As an organization founded on standards-making, the API holds this fund—focused on protecting public health and safety—paramount to our core mission.

Thank you for allowing API Ohio the opportunity to present our concerns to the committee and your consideration of our position on this legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-1509.02>