



June 8, 2023

The Honorable Matt Dolan
Chairman, Finance Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Proponent Testimony for Substitute House Bill 33

Dear Chairman Dolan,

The Ohio Oil and Gas Association appreciates the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on Substitute House Bill 33 (HB 33), the state operating budget. OOGA is a 75-year-old statewide trade association representing oil and gas production operators and all other aspects of the oil and gas industry both midstream and downstream.

The substitute bill that was accepted on Tuesday made a variety of changes impacting Ohio's oil and gas industry. Our members support these changes made by the Committee.

Removing the earmarks and protecting the Oil and Gas Well Fund from cash transfers will allow Ohio's orphan well plugging program to continue to grow. Ohio is home to around 40,000 orphan wells and the Oil and Gas Well Fund is used to plug these wells. With recent legislative changes we are hopeful to double the number of wells plugged over the next biennium. Keeping a strong fund is important to achieve these goals.

The Committee also removed new additional fees that were included in the House-passed version of the bill on certain pollution control facilities. We appreciate the Committee's action on eliminating new costs on the industry.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on HB 33. OOGA supports the bill and encourages the Senate Finance Committee to favorably report this legislation.

You can contact me with any questions at rob@ooga.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Brundrett".

Rob Brundrett
President