

Public Policy Principles

For more than 75 years the Ohio Oil and Gas Association has supported and advocated for Ohio's oil and gas industry to provide Ohioans with safe, affordable, and reliable energy in Ohio. Our members are dedicated to safely providing energy throughout Ohio.

Our mission is to protect, promote, foster and advance the common interest of those engaged in all aspects of the Ohio crude oil and natural gas producing industry.

Our members are operating in a competitive global economy. Each public policy decision made in Ohio impacts the business climate for Ohio's oil and gas industry's competitiveness. Ohio's oil and gas industry needs public policies that attract production and protect the state's production advantages.

These policy areas highlight the need and the importance of homegrown energy in the Buckeye State.

OOGA's policy priority areas include:

- A fair, efficient and competitive Ohio business tax and severance tax system
- Science-based environmental policies that balance conservation and development
- An efficient and responsive regulatory structure to capitalize on Ohio's advantage in energy resources
- A reliable and competitive safety structure that protects workers and encourages innovative safety solutions
- A modern infrastructure
- A highly skilled and trained workforce

Tax

For Ohio to continue to be an oil and gas leader in a competitive global economy the state's tax system must encourage investment and growth. The tax policy must remain competitive against domestic and international competition.

The oil and gas industry urges:

- Opposition to punitive tax measures and encouragement of pro-development policies that promote increased industry activity that will produce more tax receipts and royalties
- Ohio to continue its advantages for the oil and gas industry compared to our competitors in respect for the state's severance tax
- Incentivizing capital investment by protecting reforms from the 2005 tax reform (i.e., the elimination of the tangible personal property tax)
- Continued assurance that revenue coming from the severance tax and fees are used to support the oil and gas regulatory program

Environment

The oil and gas industry works in conjunction with environmental regulators to ensure that Ohio's air and water continue to improve at unprecedented levels. Sound-science, responsible enforcement and weighing the economic impact of regulations are all required to have an environmental regulatory scheme that protects the environment while promoting responsible industry growth.

The oil and gas industry urges:

- Ohio EPA to use a transparent stakeholder process for the implementation of any new federal regulations with independent research to develop the most cost-effective and technologically feasible plans
- Refraining from moving beyond the standards set by the federal government
- All agencies state and federal to establish a clear definition of Water of the United States under the Clean Water Act
- Work to ensure that no new regulations duplicate previous regulations under the Clean Air Act

Oil and Gas Regulatory Structure

Ohio holds an advantage compared to the rest of the Appalachian Basin regarding its regulatory structure. The Department of Natural Resources' sole and exclusive authority over oil and gas regulation provides one place for the industry to go regarding all regulatory issues, reducing bureaucracy and red tape. Ohio must continue to protect and improve on its regulatory advantage.

The oil and gas industry urges:

- Advocating for permit streamlining and clear, consistent regulatory reforms to ensure that Ohio and the entire Appalachian Basin can take full advantage of its energy resources
- Lifting restrictions on oil and natural gas development on state lands to ensure affordability, reliability, and security for all consumers
- Regulators to work with all stakeholders to ensure a transparent and thorough rule review
- Ensuring that bonding limits are appropriate for all oil and gas producers that encourage production and protect against bad actors

Safety

The health, safety, and well-being of oil and gas employees is a high priority for the industry. Without the hardworking men and women in the industry, Ohio would not have the affordable energy it enjoys today. Ensuring policies that protect workers and allow them to efficiently need care when required is a priority.

The oil and gas industry urges:

- An efficient and reliable workers' compensation system providing the best outcomes for workers and their employers
- Flexible solutions for non-traditional worksites that include industry best practices
- A fair and transparent industrial commission process

Infrastructure

A modern infrastructure is critical for upstream, midstream, and downstream of the oil and gas process. In order to maximize Ohio's production and refining advantages Ohio must continue to invest in its multi-modal infrastructure, including roads, bridges, railways, and ports.

The oil and gas industry urges:

- Ohio to promote the development of oil and gas pipeline infrastructure
- Help providing a cyber-infrastructure to protect oil and gas companies
- A stable and comprehensive road maintenance plan for the state
- Cooperation at the local level to ensure that infrastructure buildout and maintenance is completed

Workforce

A highly trained and skilled workforce puts Ohio at a competitive advantage. A strong industry requires a educated population that is able to learn the necessary skills and technology in the oil and gas industry.

The oil and gas industry urges:

- Continued state support for the training and upskilling of workers
- A focus on technical and non-four-year degrees
- Flexibility for younger students to receive on-site exposure and training