



## OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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### Senate Bill 219, Revise Oil & Gas Law Senate Energy Committee November 4, 2025

Chair Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy Committee, my name is Kyle Brooks, Director of Governmental Affairs for the Ohio Township Association (OTA). On behalf of Ohio's 1,308 townships, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony on Senate Bill 219, Revise Oil & Gas Law.

Road Use Maintenance Agreements (RUMAs) are legal agreements between local governments and businesses outlining the responsibility for road construction and repairs resulting from excessive use and damage caused by those organizations activities. Both parties understand that the existing infrastructure was not constructed to withstand the type and frequency of uses resulting from those activities. In 2012, R.C. 1509.06 was amended to require oil and gas well operators to enter into RUMAs or demonstrate a good faith effort to do so.

The OTA opposes language in SB 219 that would make these agreements entirely voluntary. According to the most updated ODOT RI-339 System Mileage Report, townships are responsible for over 77,000 lane miles, nearly 40% of the total lane miles, the most of any subdivision in the state. Without this requirement, townships will be left to absorb the costs of repairing township roads damaged by operators not willing to enter into agreements.

The OTA does understand that horizontal wells do not produce infinitely. Therefore, we do support the language in SB 219 that imposes a three-year limit on the duration of a RUMA, so long as the RUMA is required if the well is producing, and the operator has heavy equipment on the township road. We believe this supports collaboration and partnerships between the operators and the township.

However, I would be remiss not to mention that the oil and gas industry is not the only heavy equipment operators that use township roads. The outward migration to the unincorporated areas has caused an increase of traffic on township roads by heavy commercial vehicles. **The OTA respectfully requests that businesses that produce heavy truck traffic such as mining, logging, CAFFOs, and solid waste should also be required to enter into RUMAs with local governments.**

Thank you for considering our position. If you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me or Heidi M. Fought, OTA Executive Director, at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle A. Brooks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Kyle A. Brooks  
Director of Governmental Affairs