



For Immediate Release

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**Ohio Oil and Gas Association:
Statement About Ohio's Biennial Budget Proposal**

From Shawn Bennett, executive vice president of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association:

Today, the administration previewed broad tax proposals as part of the biennial state budget. While we plan to thoroughly review these proposals as they move through the legislative process, we have serious concerns about how these tax policies could impact Ohio workers and businesses.

With a 60 percent decline in oil and natural gas prices over the last year due to global and external factors, we simply cannot afford a tax policy that would discourage operators from investing in our state and instead move their capital to more profitable shale plays.

Many companies involved in the Utica have already reduced their budgets, announced layoffs and curtailed development plans due to commodity prices. Without this industry continuing to grow in eastern Ohio, many small businesses will also be forced to cut back and lay off local workers.

We hope Ohio will adopt tax policies that encourage business investment and growth, including oil and gas development, which has been a key driver of Ohio's economic success.

About the Ohio Oil and Gas Association

The Ohio Oil and Gas Association is a trade association with more than 3,100 members involved in the exploration, production and development of crude oil and natural gas resources within the state of Ohio. For more information, visit www.ooga.org.