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**Ohio Oil and Gas Association Announces Staff Transitions**

*Tom Stewart moves into consulting role;  
Shawn Bennett named executive vice president*

**COLUMBUS, Ohio, December 18, 2014** – After serving 23 years as the executive vice president of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association (OOGA), Tom Stewart today announced his retirement from OOGA and his new role as a consultant to the association. OOGA’s executive committee has elected Shawn Bennett, currently senior vice president, as executive vice president.

An unwavering advocate for the oil and gas industry, Stewart has been the voice for Ohio’s energy producers at the Statehouse, where he has worked diligently with lawmakers to craft effective, sensible legislation to improve industry safety and oversight. Under his leadership, OOGA has flourished alongside the state’s expanding shale sector with membership more than doubling since 2010.

“Tom has worked tirelessly on behalf of the oil and gas industry in Ohio and we all owe him our gratitude,” said David R. Hill, president of OOGA. “As a consultant, Tom will provide counsel to our staff and board, and lead OOGA’s engagement with federal and national energy officials and organizations.”

Following Stewart’s retirement, Shawn Bennett will lead OOGA’s advocacy efforts at the Statehouse. He will also serve as the association’s primary media spokesperson and provide day-to-day leadership for the growing association.

Prior to joining OOGA as senior vice president in August, Bennett served as director of Energy In Depth-Ohio (EID), a grassroots advocacy, research and education initiative organized in support of responsible oil and gas development.

“Shawn has great knowledge about and passion for the oil and gas industry,” said Stewart. “He is exceptionally prepared to provide leadership to the association and be an effective advocate for Ohio’s energy producers at the Statehouse.”

**About the Ohio Oil and Gas Association**

The Ohio Oil and Gas Association is a trade association with more than 3,100 members who are actively engaged in the exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas within the state of Ohio. For more information, visit [www.ooga.org](http://www.ooga.org).