Ohio House of Representatives

State Representative Andy Thompson
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Sponsor Testimony
House Bill 490
April 1, 2014
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Members of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee:

House Bill 490 contains a number of provisions that the Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio EPA originally submitted for legislative consideration as part of the larger Mid-Biennium Review bill, House Bill 472. Because these provisions are now contained in this separate bill, House Bill 490, this should allow for plenty of time for committee members to fully review these provisions and make changes, as necessary. Agency Directors for the Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will appear before the committee today and next week to present these policies and answer questions the committee members may have.

Some of the changes in House Bill 490 include the following topics:

1. Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program

2. Enforcement of Oil and Gas Law changes, including changes to administrative, suspension and revocation orders, registration certificates, brine transportation, and response costs and liability.

3. Mandatory pooling

4.   Application of certain Oil and Gas Law provisions to public land

5.   Application fee for permit to plug back an existing oil or gas well

6.   Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requirements pertaining to oil and gas facilities

7.   Sale, transfer, or use of Department of Natural Resources property and water

8.   Incidental taking permit

9.   Department of Natural Resources notices

10.   Enforcement of Water Pollution Control Law

11.   Lead contamination of drinking water from plumbing

As I said earlier, the agencies will provide testimony and answer questions relating to their sections of these provisions that were submitted as part of the larger MBR bill. Chairman Hall and I thank you for your attention and will be happy to try to answer any questions.