



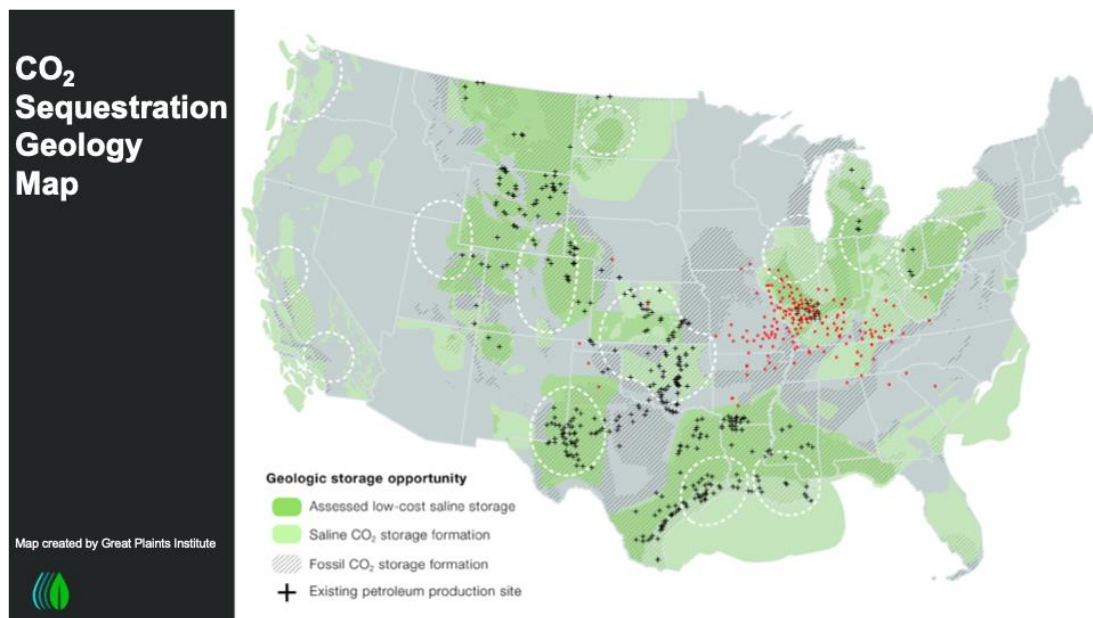
Growth Energy™
Expanding America's Bioeconomy

December 11, 2024

Representative Thomas Hall, Chairman
Representative Beth Lear, Vice Chair
Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr., Ranking Member
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Hall, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, Jr., and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding House Bill 358. Growth Energy is the world's largest association of biofuel producers, representing 97 U.S. plants that each year produce more than 9.5 billion gallons of renewable fuel, 123 businesses associated with the production process, and tens of thousands of biofuel supporters around the country. Together, we are working to bring better and more affordable choices at the fuel pump to consumers, improve air quality, and protect the environment for future generations. We remain committed to helping our country diversify its energy portfolio, sustain family farms, and drive down the costs of transportation fuels for consumers.



We write today in support of Ohio's efforts to establish primacy in the approval and regulation of Class VI carbon dioxide sequestration wells for potential projects in the state.

Carbon sequestration is a critical tool for the bioethanol industry, particularly as demand for low-carbon liquid fuels continues to rise. Ohio is positioned as one of only a relatively handful of states with optimal carbon sequestration geology.

Liquid fuels are expected to continue to dominate the nation's transportation fuel matrix in the coming decades. Domestic markets, as well as an increasing number of international markets, are placing a premium on low-carbon liquid fuels. By establishing primacy, Ohio's bioethanol industry, coupled with favorable geology for sequestration in several regions of the state, will provide additional economic benefits to the biofuels industry and the rural Ohio economies it supports via increased access to these low-carbon domestic and international markets.

With the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicting further decreases in farm incomes, these new markets and economic opportunities are particularly important for rural communities dependent on grain prices and biofuels production.¹

As of November 11, 2024, 154 Class VI permits were currently under review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.² Many of these permit applications have experienced delay after delay, preventing bioethanol producers from moving forward on capital- and labor-intensive carbon sequestration projects.

By establishing primacy, Ohio can move forward with CCUS projects without delays from federal agencies. Growth Energy's members, and the corn growers with whom we work, will benefit greatly from Ohio's efforts on Class VI primacy. Ohio can join North Dakota, Wyoming, and Louisiana in taking advantage of this economic opportunity for a variety of industries.

We thank State Representative Robb-Blasdel for introducing this legislation and working with stakeholders to ensure the economic benefits of CCUS projects can benefit Ohioans across its energy industry. Given our industry's experience and expertise in carbon reduction, we are happy to assist the Committee with technical questions as they consider this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Bliley".

Chris Bliley
Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs
Growth Energy

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-sector-income-finances/farm-sector-income-forecast/>

² <https://www.epa.gov/uic/current-class-vi-projects-under-review-epa>