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**ERIC L. BURKLAND**

February 22, 2017

The Honorable Troy Balderson  
Chairman, Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Ohio Senate  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: Senate Bill 2 – Written Proponent Testimony**

Dear Chairman Balderson:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony to Senate Bill 2. As Ohio EPA Director Butler pointed out in his testimony, the bill "continues to build on the Governor's commitment to protect Lake Erie while also addressing critical concerns in surface and drinking water and solid waste." It is important that Ohio remains committed to protecting its precious water resources including everything from navigable shipping channels to clean drinking water.

In particular, there is a provision in the bill that OMA has long advocated: common sense regulation of slag. The bill recognizes that slag is a valuable product and not a waste under Ohio's water laws. Senate Bill 2 exempts slag from excessive regulation while at the same time requiring that slag be used in a manner that conforms with appropriate water quality standards (primary or secondary containment levels for ground water). Also, slag will not be permitted in any discharge prohibited by federal environmental law, or treated in a manner that is a threat to public health, safety, or the environment. Note that slag has been exempt from the definition of "solid waste" under Ohio's waste laws for decades.

The bill nicely balances environmental protection with economics by allowing for the responsible use of slag in the market, but maintains common sense regulations that hold entities accountable for misuse.

The OMA appreciates the time and effort that Senator Hite and Ohio EPA have invested in crafting this legislation and we encourage a swift, affirmative vote of the esteemed committee.

Sincerely,

Robert Brundrett  
Director, Public Policy Services  
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association