



**Ohio House Finance Committee
Proponent Testimony for Sub. H.B. 166 – FY 2020 – 2021 Operating Budget
with Regard to the Provision for H2Ohio
Friday, May 3, 2019**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera and the distinguished members of the House Finance Committee; The Ohio Soybean Association and the Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association would like to express our support for the creation of the H2Ohio fund within the 2020-2021 Operating Budget.

We support Governor DeWine's approach to improve water quality and protect the long-term sustainability of family farms in Ohio. The proposed H2Ohio initiatives includes significant resources for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs), such as cover crops, buffer strips, equipment, and precision technology that will help farmers keep nutrients in the soil where they belong.

Ohio farmers want to be part of the solution and are already taking action to curb runoff and protect the health of our waterways. This funding will help us accelerate the adoption of BMPs throughout the state and especially in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) where those practices are so desperately needed.

We commend the Administration for using H2Ohio as a vehicle to bring all stakeholders to the table, which includes farmers, agribusiness, local governments, conservationists and environmentalists to find long-term, science-based solutions.

We do not have to choose between the health of Lake Erie and the viability of Ohio farms, we will achieve both if we work together.

We thank the committee and the House Leadership for their commitment to keeping H2Ohio as a part of this bill moving forward.

We thank you for your time and are happy to answer any questions from the committee as the need arises.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Miller".

Jon Miller, President
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J L Scott Metzger".

Scott Metzger, President
Ohio Soybean Association