

## NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO OIL & GAS ENERGY EDUCATION PROGRAM



# OHIO'S NATURAL GAS AND CRUDE OIL INDUSTRY CELEBRATES MILESTONE 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND LAUNCHES OHIO ENERGY PROUD CAMPAIGN

While energy, economics and jobs dominate the headlines, a homegrown industry has been supplying these benefits for a century and a half in the Buckeye State. This year, Ohio's natural gas and crude oil industry celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and its benefits to the state may surprise you.

Many Ohioans are unaware of the state's vast geological energy resources. To date, Ohio has drilled more than 273,000 wells, ranking fourth in the nation following Texas, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. Last year alone, Ohio wells produced more than 88 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

Ohio's natural gas production, nearly all of which stays in the state, created enough energy last year to heat more than one million Ohio homes and businesses. These wells produce energy 365 days a year and are not affected by adverse weather conditions or foreign influence. "Ohio's natural gas and crude oil employees produce a domestic energy supply that positively benefits all Ohioans," comments Rhonda Reda, executive director, Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program (OOGEEP) and director of the Ohio Energy Proud campaign.

Ohio's industry also supports local economies by distributing over \$200 million dollars annually in royalty payments to local landowners (mineral interest owners) that include Ohio farmers, businesses, schools, churches and communities with wells on their property.

Likewise, Ohio's natural gas and crude oil industry supports local families and communities. Over 14,400 Ohioans are employed directly in the natural gas and crude oil exploration and production industry, and another 60,000 in affiliated jobs statewide.

The new Ohio Energy Proud Campaign (OhioEnergyProud.org) is largely focused on the history of the state's natural gas and crude oil industry, its growth throughout the years, and the contributions it is still making after an astounding 150 years. "Our industry has and will continue to play a key role in Ohio's economic and energy future," adds OOGEEP chairman David Hill and an Ohio natural gas and crude oil producer.

***The Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program is a non-profit statewide public outreach program. The mission of OOGEEP is to facilitate educational, scholarship, safety and training programs; to promote public awareness about the industry; and to demonstrate to the general public the environmental, energy and economic benefits of Ohio's independent natural gas and crude oil producers. OOGEEP is not funded with any tax payer dollars.***

For more information about OOGEEP's educational and other public outreach programs, contact Rhonda Reda at (740) 587-0410, rreda@oogeep.org or OOGEEP, P.O. Box 187, Granville, OH 43023.

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