



## Ohio's Energy



**Ohio is party to the 2015 Tri-State Shale Agreement, alongside Pennsylvania and West Virginia, which calls for the cooperation of three states on the future development of the natural gas industry by focusing on marketing, workforce development, infrastructure, research and the environment.**

The surplus in natural gas, oil and other fuels has stabilized the energy markets and entire key industries that are dependent on them, such as agriculture, manufacturing and freight transportation. Natural gas is becoming the fuel of choice for power generation and transportation purposes and is seen as the bridge fuel for the next twenty years at least. Ohio could leverage its natural gas resources so as to catapult the state onto the next level of power generation based entirely on 100% renewable energy resources.

It is also important to appropriate funds derived from tax revenue from the oil and gas industry specifically and more broadly from the pump, to help cover environmental costs and enhance enforcement and

protection. Ohio is in a critical phase in developing its full energy potential, including that of contributions made by biomass, solar, and wind, but to get fully clean and renewable sources is going to take time.

Ohio Democrats support long term planning with respect to developing Ohio's fossil fuel energy resources and to ensuring its continued viability while doing the utmost to protect our natural resources, such as water, in the process. Additionally, we support the creation of a wealth fund that derives its source funding from taxes associated with the extraction of fossil fuels, similar to the state of Alaska. The wealth fund could provide for Ohio's residents long after Ohio has made the transition off fossil fuels.

We encourage lawmakers and the public to consider a long-term taxation plan that is fair and equitable both to the energy industry and to the public thus encouraging future development toward energy security, environmental protection, infrastructure and financial leverage.