



**State Representative
Jack Cera**

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Contact: Brian Halaiko, Legislative Aide to Rep. Carney, (614) 466-2473
Pam Wilson, Legislative Aide to Rep. Cera, (614) 466-3735

Reps. Cera, Carney Propose Increased Transparency in Oil & Gas Royalties
*House Bill 400 would standardize details provided to landowners through
corporate payments*

COLUMBUS – State Reps. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) and John Patrick Carney (D-Columbus) introduced House Bill 400 on Thursday in an effort to bring transparency to oil and gas industry royalty statements provided to landowners. The bill seeks to provide these landowners with information about corporate activity and well activity on individual landowner’s property in conjunction with their routine royalty statements.

“The standardization of royalty statements is a great first step in helping people understand the money they make from leasing their land to oil and gas companies,” Rep. Carney said. “When the lessor has no audit rights, companies can keep them totally in the dark about their profits. This bill will help provide transparency and ensure that Ohioans are receiving appropriate information and fair payments for activities on their land.”

HB 400 would require oil and gas companies to provide information about production, sales, taxes and any deductions on routine royalty statements to landowners. Statements currently may show no deductions taken from landowners’ royalties. Yet numerous deductions are frequently taken out for severance taxes, production taxes, windfall profit taxes and a number of other costs that are being shifted from the company to the landowner.

“This bill will provide landowners who have leased their oil and gas rights with clear and concise information about the production from wells on their property,” Rep. Cera said. “It is vital that landowners receive details on any loss in profits they incur.”

HB 400 is modeled after similar laws in oil and gas producing states, Pennsylvania and Texas.