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Ohio Chamber and Cenovus Energy Announce Historic Partnership in Energy Advocacy

COLUMBUS, OHIO — Today, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and Cenovus Energy announced a historic partnership between the two storied organizations, with Cenovus making the single largest level of membership investment in the Ohio Chamber’s 130-year history. Their Chamber Champion membership, at the highest Platinum level, immediately places Cenovus on the Ohio Chamber’s Board of Directors with additional eligibility to serve on the Chamber’s Executive Committee, Research Foundation Board, and Political Action Committee (PAC) Board.

“At 137 years old, Cenovus’s facility in Lima is the oldest continually operating refinery in the United States, having been founded by John D. Rockefeller in 1886,” remarked Ohio Chamber President and CEO Steve Stivers. “As the Chamber celebrates our own 130-year anniversary and as Ohio leads the way with our nation’s domestic energy production, it’s especially meaningful to unite our two legacy organizations. Cenovus is a trusted partner who we will look to for guidance on policy and advocacy.”

Cenovus, a Canadian-based oil and gas company, is the largest refiner in Ohio with a U.S. leadership office in Dublin, Ohio. Cenovus employs approximately 1,200 at its two Ohio refineries in Lima and Toledo, who contribute to a production of nearly 335,000 barrels per day in combined refining capacity. The Lima and Toledo refineries supply the Midwest with a range of refined products, including gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, asphalt, and feedstocks that are crucial to countless other manufacturers and industries.

“We are excited for our future in Ohio,” said Claudio Ingaramo, Interim Senior Vice President of U.S. Downstream Operations. “Working together with the Chamber’s professional staff and fellow members, we will work to ensure Ohio remains open for business. Cenovus wants to grow our operations in Ohio and attract talent to the Buckeye State, and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce will be a meaningful partner in this journey.”

“Ohio is entering into a manufacturing renaissance that is the envy of the free world, and Cenovus is a key partner who creates not just the building blocks for new products and technology but also the foundational materials for our infrastructure to move freight and people,” noted Stivers.

Stivers called today’s announcement an extension of the natural partnership of the two organizations in recent years to combat legislative efforts that would force unsafe contracting decisions on Ohio’s refiners.

The current iteration of the legislation, House Bill 205, purports to boost worker safety on maintenance and construction projects at Ohio’s refineries, but it mandates the type of contractors that Ohio’s refiners can work with rather than allowing refiners to select who they believe are the safest and most proficient contractors.

“A recommitment to American energy production is long overdue, and Cenovus is uniquely situated to lead the way for our state to provide long-term energy affordability and reliability,” explained Stivers. “However, some state lawmakers are pushing an appalling precedent of government inserting itself into the hiring practices of private businesses, dictating not just whom they must employ but also the ratios of employees among that company’s staff. We continue to defend Cenovus and our other refinery partners against stifling governmental intrusion into their essential operations.”

The Ohio Chamber is the state’s leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

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