



Ohio's "6119" Regional Water & Sewer Districts

House Finance Committee Proponent Testimony on HB 221 February 6, 2018

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Ryan, Ranking Member Cera and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for considering my written comments on behalf of the Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts (CORD) in support of HB 221. CORD is a non-profit association established to assist, protect, and advance the interest of Ohio's regional water and sewer districts, also known as "6119 Districts" since they are established under Chapter 6119 of the Ohio Revised Code. Our members provide potable water, sanitary sewer, and storm water services to over 1 million customers in the State of Ohio.

CORD would like to thank Representative Holmes for introducing HB 221 as it would help water and sewer systems maintain lateral lines by codifying policies already being implemented by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). Specifically, the legislation would make water and sewer laterals, or the lines connecting homes and buildings to the main lines, eligible projects under OPWC as long as an easement has been granted by the private property owner. Lateral lines are instrumental in ensuring Ohio's water and sewer systems operate effectively. Unfortunately, however, many of these laterals are outdated and in disrepair. Since they are often located on private property, it can often be difficult to use government funding for their maintenance. To address this concern, the OPWC amended its guidelines to include lateral improvement projects as eligible for funding in situations where a public easement was granted by the property owner. HB 221 would simply codify these policies in the Ohio Revised Code.

CORD hopes the committee will be willing to support this common-sense legislation and we look forward to working with the Ohio General Assembly on ways to improve Ohio's water and sewer infrastructure so that our members can continue providing excellent services to citizens throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Albers II", written over a white background.

John B. Albers II, Esq.
Albers and Albers
Executive Committee Member
Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts (CORD)