



State Representative Steve Arndt & State Representative John Patterson  
House Joint Resolution 16  
Sponsor Testimony  
House Finance Committee  
November 13, 2018

Chairman Ryan, Vice Chairman Lipps, and Ranking Member Cera and members of the House Finance Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Joint Resolution 16, legislation that would allow for a constitutional amendment to fund clean water improvements.

My joint sponsor and I introduced this legislation that would allow the General Assembly to submit a ballot issue for a constitutional amendment granting the authority to issue general obligation bonds to help with the financing costs of clean water improvements. These obligations would not exceed 1 billion dollars over 10 years with an annual issue of not to exceed 100 million. These would include

- water treatment & waste water treatment systems,
- water quality research,
- reducing open lake disposal of dredged material into Lake Erie and other bodies of water, and
- supporting agricultural best management practices including water resource management, watershed restoration, and soil and water conservation
- and other sewer and water capital improvements.

This legislation is of particular importance to both my joint sponsor and I because our districts border Lake Erie, where recently the open waters were declared impaired. I was proud to work with Representative Patterson, Senator Gardner, and Senator O'Brien to pass Senate Bill 299 the Clean Lake 2020 legislation providing funding to assist in improving water quality in designated watersheds in the Lake Erie area. However, there is still more work to be done to protect both Lake Erie and other waterways in our state. In fact, a US EPA report indicates that Ohio's communities will be required to investment in wastewater infrastructure improvements over the next 20 years estimated at \$14 billion and drinking water improvements at \$12.6 billion.

It is my hope that House Joint Resolution 16 will create awareness and start a discussion on this critical issue and hopefully lead to future legislation.

Thank you for your attention. My joint sponsor and I would be glad to answer any questions or address any concerns the committee may have.