

**Proponent Testimony – HB 121 – Ohio House State and Local Government Committee**

**April 25, 2017**

Chairwoman Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Bishoff, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today on HB 121. I am Brian Davis, Vice President of Operations for Engineered Profiles LLC. Engineered Profiles, LLC has been providing leading edge plastic extrusion solutions to a wide array of industries for over 70 years. Since our founding as Crane Plastics in 1947 by Robert S. Crane Sr., our company has been on the forefront of the plastic extrusion industry. We have 250 employees and are headquartered here in Columbus, Ohio. I have a BS in Chemical Engineering from Ohio University, an MBA from Ashland University, and an MBA in Operational Excellence from the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University.

As a resident of Ohio, it is stunning to think that the industry I work for isn't even allowed to adequately compete in the state. HB 121 is designed to address that.

Many others today are testifying to the fact that we face a growing problem with Ohio's water infrastructure. I agree. The facts are clear: our water infrastructure is corroding leading to pipe breaks, leaks, health risks, water loss and higher costs for municipalities and rate payers.

Our company works with rigid and flexible PVC, CPVC, Cellular Foam, PE, PP, ABS, HDPE, WPC, and additional engineered resins. We know these materials work and when allowed to compete, bring innovation to the market.

However, many parts of Ohio limit allowable materials at a city or county level – even before the specifics of a project are apparent. This results in a lack of competition which hurts our businesses and our citizens. It also increases the costs of public works projects.

HB 121 was written to allow all piping materials to compete in the bidding process. If enacted, this legislation would protect the decision making power of local engineers while working to reduce the costs of water infrastructure projects on municipalities and rater payers.

We ask that you allow this bill to pass and provide a level playing field for our industry to compete in these publicly funded projects.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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