



April 25, 2017

Chair Marlene Anielski, Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Letter in Support of HB 121 Piping Materials

Dear Chair Anielski and House State and Local Government Committee,

On behalf of the Ohio Home Builders Association (OHBA) and our members, I am submitting comments in support of HB 121 Piping Materials (Edwards, J.) ensuring all suitable piping materials be included in bids for water and wastewater utility service improvement projects.

The OHBA is a 4,500 member trade association serving home builders, remodelers, land developers and associate members promoting affordable housing opportunities for all Ohioans. The association serves its membership through education and encouraging proactive involvement on state issues impacting the production of affordable housing. OHBA represents an industry that creates significant economic growth in Ohio. HB 121 makes common sense improvements to ensure Ohioans have access to broad range of products when constructing this crucial infrastructure in the most cost effective manner. As illustrated by several witnesses, restricting what products can be utilized notably increases the cost of projects, and further, prevents communities from determining what material makes the most sense. Replacing arbitrary restrictions with the ability to propose use of alternative materials meeting specified standards opens up competition, and thus a more efficient use of funds. HB 121 would provide communities approved options while upgrading and establishing water infrastructure in Ohio.

Improvements contributing to competition potentially decreasing the cost of both installation and maintenance of water infrastructure in the state will support economic development and a more common sense process.

Thank you for your time. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Vince Squillace, Executive Vice President