



May 8, 2017

**House State and Local Government Committee
Written Opposition Testimony to HB 121
Brad Cole, Managing Director of Research**

Chair Anielski and Vice Chair Hambley, CCAO thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 121. CCAO opposes HB 121 which requires a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state- funded water or waste water project.

Most state and federal funding sources or regulatory agencies such as Ohio EPA, Ohio Water Development Authority, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Farmers Home Administration already have established minimum standards for piping and many other materials. Ohio law is not the place to establish engineering standards. Engineering standards should be established and selected by engineering and other technically minded utility professionals representing local government agencies.

Local governments often exceed minimum standards. It is not unusual for local governments to have long and positive operational experience with the specifications they use and they have no desire to change from a long standing “tried and true” specification. Local utility departments have years of substantial experience with the inspection, installation and repair based on local specifications. Utility departments also have the necessary equipment and materials for installation and repairs based on that specification. The operational efficiency associated with using specifications based on years of experience is not recognized by HB 121 and would be jeopardized by the adoption of this legislation.

Finally, HB 121 creates liability for local governments by creating an additional opportunity for disgruntled vendors to sue local governments based on non-compliance with the provisions of HB 121. CCAO does not want to provide new opportunities for vendors to sue county governments on the basis of engineering standards built into Ohio law.



County Risk
Sharing Authority

Fax: 614-220-0209
www.corsa.org



Counties Uniting for Affordable Health Benefits

Fax: 614-229-4588
www.cebco.org



County Commissioners
Association of Ohio
Service Corporation

Fax: 614-221-6986
www.ccao.org