

City of Toledo

Paula Hicks-Hudson, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
Edward A. Moore, Director
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
Douglas R. Stephens, P.E., Commissioner

Dear Senator/Representative:

The City of Toledo, Division of Engineering Services hereby requests that you oppose House Bill 121, which would force Toledo to consider all pipe materials in our water and sewer projects. This bill requires public authorities to “consider all piping materials...that meet the engineering specifications for the project as determined by the design engineer.” Since all piping materials on a project are required to meet project engineering specifications anyway, this bill does not appear to accomplish anything. However, it could lead to frivolous lawsuits questioning a community’s pipe selection or engineering judgment. The bill imposes a statewide mandate in the place of engineering expertise tailored to individual communities and projects. In Toledo, we are open to investigating alternative pipeline materials for suitability in our infrastructure. However, we have serious concerns about the use of some materials, particularly on a carte blanche basis and believe that pipeline material selection is best left to our experts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Douglas R. Stephens