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OPPONENT TESTIMONY

5/9/17

Chairwoman Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, and Ladies and Gentlemen
Representatives of the House's State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to represent my company at this opponent hearing. I am not a lawyer, an engineer, an economist, or a mathematician. I am a 15-year waterworks professional, I am a ductile iron pipe salesperson, and I'm here to represent my employer, McWane Ductile.

McWane Ductile Ohio, located in Coshocton is a world-class manufacturer of lead free ductile iron pipe, used around the world for water and wastewater applications. Our creed is, "Building Iron Strong Utilities for Generations". We employ 4,200 team members around the world, and at our facility just down the road in Coshocton, over 400 of those team members use more than 1 million pounds of recycled, scrap steel every day, artfully turning it into 500-600 tons of finished pipe. I didn't bring samples of my pipe. Instead, I bring an open invitation, to come take a tour of our plant. America is still the epicenter of the manufacturing world, and Ohio is the 3rd or 4th largest manufacturing state in the country. Come to Coshocton, and you'll see American heavy manufacturing at its finest: Hard working men and women making great products and earning a paycheck. Visit our plant, and you will see how much our company means to the community.

We are the ONLY pipe company located in Ohio that manufactures pipes for water mains, and our efforts provide jobs and tax revenue for the people of Ohio. I say that not because we want special treatment. We don't. We don't receive special treatment today, and we are not asking for it. Like all manufacturers, we compete day in and day out for business, and we simply want to keep the market free.

We oppose this bill because it needlessly meddles with the free market and seeks to remedy a problem that does not exist. There is nothing preventing any manufacturer from competing today, and we should keep it that way by opposing H.B. 121.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and thank you for your service to our State.