



May 8, 2017

Representative Marlene Anielski  
District 6  
77 S. High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

**Re: Opposition to House Bill 121**

Dear Representative Anielski:

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Cincinnati Water Works with respect to H.B. 121, which is pending before the House State and Local Government Committee.

Having reviewed the bill internally and with our colleagues around the state, we respectfully ask that you oppose this legislation. Under existing law, utilities, their local engineers and other water works professionals evaluate and select the type of pipe to be used in local projects. These evaluations are based upon engineering design, operational factors and experiences best determined at the local level, after having considered a multitude of facts including service life, durability, reliability, economic and safety characteristics and specific applications.

There is no evidence of which we are aware that engineers and local communities in Ohio have been creating erroneous or otherwise improper specifications for water projects. There is nothing in state law that prohibits local communities in Ohio from using the pipe material of their choice. We would argue that there is simply no problem and no need for state legislation.

Finally, we believe that this legislation would impose new, undefined and vague standards that would challenge the specifications and material selection decision of engineers and our local communities.

Please also be aware that the professional organizations that represent and serve a vast array of public and private water utilities in the State of Ohio, the Ohio Section of the American Water Works Association (OAWWA) and the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) have reviewed and oppose this legislation. Their opposition provides strong technical and policy arguments, and significant constitutional merit. They have advocated on our behalf on this and many other issues in the past. We urge you to favorably review submissions they have made to you and your colleagues.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please oppose House Bill 121.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey M. Pieper, P. E.  
Chief Engineer, Greater Cincinnati Water Works

