

**Before the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
Testimony on House Bill 121 – 132nd General Assembly**

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Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 121, HB121.

I am a registered Professional Engineer in Ohio, and I support HB121 and the proposed amendment. By way of background, I have lived in Bay Village and Westlake Ohio since 1977, and I appreciate the plentiful and safe drinking water that I have enjoyed from Lake Erie. I have been the chairman of the Ohio Registration Board for Professional Engineers and Surveyors, and I have been the president of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers. I also have experience at NSF International in Ann Arbor, MI, the independent body that certifies potable water pipe, plumbing, fittings and fixtures and drinking water additives for the U.S. and other countries. At NSF, I developed the protocol and equations that are still in place for testing and certifying all types of potable water pipe, fittings and joining materials against national drinking water standards. Thus, I have experience as an Ohio regulator responsible for the health, safety and welfare of the public; and as a technical expert on potable water pipes and plumbing, and drinking water quality.

HB121 helps to keep flexibility in our use of piping materials while maintaining drinking water quality in Ohio. Engineers specify materials everyday based upon standards and certifications. Good design includes knowledge of local conditions to ensure performance along with considering costs. HB121 merely allows engineers access to the spectrum of certified solutions for conveying drinking water, just as engineers would consider the possible solutions for other infrastructure projects.

Governor Kasich signed Senate Bill 2 into law in June 2017. I testified in support of SB2, which requires public water systems to demonstrate the technical, managerial and financial capability of the system in an asset management programs. Asking public water systems to give some idea as to future funding requirements and rates should include taking into consideration the various types of pipe. Our drinking water infrastructure needs work and needs to be sustainable, and HB121 will help.

Given our lakes and rivers and underground sources, Ohio has the best, long lasting supply of drinking water in the U.S., if not the world. House Bill 121 maintains our drinking water quality, and helps protect the health, safety and welfare of our 11 million fellow Ohioans, a responsibility that must continue.

I am willing to help the Legislature with this legislation, and assist with subsequent regulations and implementation.

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