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OPPONENT TESTIMONY

11/1/17

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, or an economist. What I am, is a 15-year waterworks professional. I am a ductile iron pipe salesperson, and I 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 again, 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 also see how much our company means to the community. For example, our Vice President, Tom Crawford, sits on the board of the town's hospital, we also host a quarterly meeting with heads of local government and businesses to discuss current issues within the community. In addition, McWane Ductile has raised and donated tens of thousands of dollars to the United Way, helping our friends and neighbors in their times of need.

We are the ONLY pipe company located in Ohio that manufactures either ductile iron or PVC pipes for water mains, and our efforts provide jobs and very much needed 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 and the proposed amendment because they needlessly seek to meddle with the free market and seek to remedy a problem that does not exist. There is nothing in state law that prevents any manufacturer from competing today, and we should keep it that way by opposing H.B. 121 and the proposed amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony and thank you for your service to our State.