



A Service of The City of Cincinnati

GREATER CINCINNATI
WATER WORKS

Cathy Bernardino Bailey, Director

November 1, 2017

Opponent Testimony
House Bill 121 – AM0370

Written Testimony of Jeffrey M. Pieper
Chief Engineer, Greater Cincinnati Water Works

Chairwoman Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the State and Local Government Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of House Bill 121 and circulating amendment AM0370.

Our utility has reviewed the bill and the proposed amendment and we respectfully ask that you oppose this legislation as it is unnecessary and would undermine local control. Under current 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 experience best determined at the local level after having considered a multitude of facts, including life-cycle costs, service life, durability, reliability, economic and safety characteristics and specific applications.

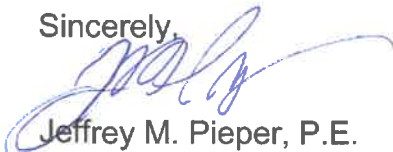
There is no evidence of which we are aware that engineers and local communities in Ohio have been creating erroneous or otherwise improper specifications for water projects. Additionally, state law does not prohibit local communities in Ohio from using the piping material of their choice.

Finally, we believe that this legislation would impose new, undefined, and vague application of a standard that would open the specifications and material selection decision of engineers and local communities to delays and litigation.

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 (OAWWA) and the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) have reviewed and oppose this legislation. Their opposition provides strong technical and policy arguments of significant merit. They have advocated on our behalf on this and many other issues in the past and we urge you to favorably review the submissions they have made.

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, your attention and consideration in this matter are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



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

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