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Proponent Testimony House Bill 121

Jenn Klein
President, Ohio Chemistry Technology Council

Before the House State and Local Government Committee
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Chairwoman Aniekski, Vice Chair Hambly, Ranking Member Holmes, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 121. I would like to briefly address the amendment and then turn it over to the other coalition members who are here today. OCTC supports the amended language which is a result of months of work to identify language deemed acceptable to the parties involved in this legislation.

One important modification to the bill is removing the word “repair”. We agree with the concerns raised by many jurisdictions that when a pipe has corroded and ruptures, or breaks for any reason the first concern should be to fix the repair as quickly as possible. Removing the word “repair” will ensure that in these instances local officials can move swiftly to address the problem in order to prevent any harm to the public.

The other modification is removing the word “consider”. We did not anticipate that a word like consider could possibly provoke so much debate regarding its meaning. Proponents of the bill have worked hard to change the wording of the original bill to language that would be less contentious.

To that end, we identified verbiage already used in Ohio Revised Code. The new language ensures that all reasonable materials, based on sound engineering principles, may be used. The phrase “sound engineering principles” is located in ORC 1509.17 regarding the materials (including piping) used to encase oil and gas wells.

The new language continues to provide common sense improvements as to how scarce state resources are spent on critical infrastructure by providing Ohioans and engineers access to a broad range of products when constructing and maintaining this important infrastructure. While also ensuring state resources are spent in an efficient, effective manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I’d be happy to take any questions the committee may have.