



County Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio

An Affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio

October 31, 2017

Return Address:

Fairfield County Utilities
Donald S. Rector, P.E.
6670 Lockville Rd.
Carroll, Oh 43112

The Honorable Marlene Anielski
The Ohio House of Representatives
Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Written Opposition to HB 121

Scott Ellsworth, P.E.

Stark County
President
(330) 451-2366

Chairman Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, and members of the committee, I am writing on behalf of the County Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio (CSEAO) to state our opposition to House Bill 121, which is currently before the State and Local Government Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives.

Tom Bleidorn, P.E.

Clark County
Vice President
(937) 521-2158

The mission of CSEAO is to support and advance to the fullest extent possible the policies of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) with particular emphasis on the general improvement of County Sanitary Engineering Departments in Ohio. Sanitary Engineers throughout Ohio are responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of County water and sewer systems.

Amy Lyons-Galvin, P.E.

Medina County
Secretary
(330) 723-9585

- House bill 121 attempts to include all pipe materials in public bidding for pipe projects, which will force agencies to make decisions based upon the initial capital costs of materials. Legislation that imposes requirements for material selection based on bid price only are short sighted. A full life cycle analysis is necessary to determine the material that best suits a given application.

Donald S. Rector, P.E.

Fairfield County
Treasurer
(740) 652-7125

- Proper material selection requires the judgment of a public agency's professional engineer. Therefore, pipe material selection is part of the engineering process and should not be legislated.

Michael Jones, P.E.

Tuscarawas County
Past President
(330) 874-3262

- Being "forced" by this legislation to use another pipe material will cause financial hardship for communities, which have tooled their installation and repair procedures and techniques to a certain type of pipe. Changing the pipe material will cause financial hardship in the purchase of new tools and appurtenances as well as in personnel education.

- There is no one size fits all criteria for material selection. Material selection is project specific, and often times varying pipe materials are specified at different locations within a single project due to installation requirements, soil conditions and other unique factors.

- The legislation will create exposure to bid protests and lawsuits, which will ultimately lead to wasted time and public resources.

In closing, we believe that material selection should be left to professional engineers who have been vested with the public's trust to provide honest and impartial material evaluations for each project.

For all of the above reasons, the County Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio stand in opposition to HB 121.

Respectfully,

Scott Ellsworth, P.E.
President, CSEAO
Stark County Assistant Sanitary Engineer