



Ohio's "6119" Regional Water & Sewer Districts

May 22, 2019

Chairman Oelslager
Ranking Member Thomas
Members of the House Finance Committee

Re: Support for HB 7

Dear Chairman Oelslager Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide comments on behalf of the Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts (CORD) in support of HB 7. As you heard from the bill's sponsors, Representatives Ghanbari and Patterson, Ohio's most precious and vital natural resource is our water. We would like to thank Governor DeWine and this body for supporting the H2Ohio initiative and creating the H2Ohio Endowment Board to ensure funding is available to support future projects aimed at improving water quality.

CORD is a non-profit association established to assist, protect, and advance the interests of Ohio's regional water and sewer districts, also known as "6119 Districts" since they are established under Chapter 6119 of the Ohio Revised Code. 6119 Districts provide potable water, sanitary sewer, and storm water services to over 1 million customers in the State of Ohio.

Ohio's water and wastewater infrastructure is in dire need of repair and upgrades. Unfortunately, many communities simply can't raise the necessary capital to make such investments. The members of CORD applaud the House for its creative solution to generate funding for such projects. By allowing the H2Ohio Endowment Board to accept donations, land, title to land and federal funding, Ohio should have the necessary resources to properly invest in improving our water and sewer infrastructure. The Board may also receive surplus general revenue dollars and issue special obligation securities in order to fund projects. Projects receiving this funding would be overseen by the H2Ohio Advisory Council.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate CORD's support for the H2Ohio program and the work this chamber has done in developing an innovative, long-term funding source for that program. The members of CORD stand willing to be a resource to the DeWine Administration and the Ohio General Assembly as the H2Ohio program is established and water quality projects are developed.

Sincerely,



John B. Albers
Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts (CORD)
Executive Committee Member