



# OHIO SECTION AWWA

## Water Utility Council

May 1, 2017

Representative Al Landis  
Chair, House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
77 South High Street  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Proponent Testimony on Amended Senate Bill 2, House Energy and Natural Resources Committee provided by the Ohio Water Utility Council of Ohio AWWA.

I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Water Utility Council (OWUC) of the Ohio Section of the American Water Works Association (Ohio AWWA) to state OWUC's support for Am. SB 2 currently before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives. I am Tyler Converse, Chair of the Ohio Water Utility Council, and Superintendent of the City of Canton, Public Water System.

The AWWA Ohio Section is the leading water policy organization in Ohio. AWWA Ohio Section member utilities include publicly owned and investor-owned water utilities that provide safe drinking water to millions of Ohioans and thousands of business and institutional customers in Ohio's big cities, small towns, and rural areas.

OWUC supports Governor Kasich's, Ohio EPA Director Butler's and Sponsor Hite's work contained in Am. SB 2 to strengthen efforts to protect Lake Erie by reducing phosphorous and nutrient loading of the lake; encouraging environmentally beneficial use of dredge materials; requiring financial capability assurance for privately owned water systems; and requiring ongoing asset management efforts by all public water systems.

### **Protecting Lake Erie and Encouraging Environmentally Beneficial Use of Dredge Materials:**

OWUC strongly supports any and all efforts to reduce the phosphorous and nutrient loading of Ohio's surface waters, especially those utilized as source water by Ohio's public drinking water systems. Phosphorous and nutrient loading through non-point source runoff and harbor dredging materials are major contributors to harmful and often toxic algae blooms. Such blooms take a hefty toll on local communities that use these waters and the public water systems that must treat this problem prior to delivering the

product for safe consumption. Am. SB 2 strengthens the Ohio Lake Erie Commission's ability reduce nutrient loading into Lake Erie and also encourages environmentally sound beneficial use of dredge materials. OWUC therefore supports Am. SB 2 provisions to protect Lake Erie and to find beneficial use for dredge materials.

**Requiring Financial Assurance for Privately Owned Water Systems:**

All too often smaller, privately owned public water systems such as those that serve residents in mobile home parks do not have the resources in place to properly maintain and safely operate these systems. As a result the health and well being of residents who count on this water are left exposed to consume potentially unsafe water or must go without water for extended periods of time. This is not only unacceptable to those residents but also to Ohio EPA, and Ohio's public water system community as a whole. There is no half-way when it comes to running a public water system and delivering a safe product. If you're going to be in the business of supplying potable water to consumers, then you need to demonstrate the capability and resources necessary to quickly mitigate any problems that may arise. OWUC supports this provision of Am. SB 2 as it provides Ohio EPA the tools to fix problems if necessary, while requiring private water systems to make the financial resources readily available to properly and safely operate their systems.

**Requiring Ongoing Technical, Financial, and Managerial Capability via an Asset Management Program:**

For the same reasons stated above under Financial Assurance, OWUC supports the provisions of Am. SB 2 which require a public water system to demonstrate technical, financial, and managerial capability in the form of an asset management program. We believe these fundamentals are essential for the efficient and effective operation of a public water system.

The provisions of Am. SB 2 described above in this proponent testimony are important to the ongoing success of Ohio's public water systems, the health and safety of its consumers, and the maintenance of the public's confidence in the potable water we produce for millions of Ohioans. We urge this legislative body to support these provisions of this bill.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,



Tyler S. Converse  
Chair, Water Utility Council of the Ohio Section, AWWA  
Superintendent

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Cc: Vice-Chair Hagan, House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Director Butler, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency