



Ohio Senate  
Judiciary Committee

Support for Sub. HB 276  
May 15, 2018

Chair Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of American Municipal Power (AMP), the Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA) and our member municipal electric communities, we are writing to offer support for Sub. HB 276.

AMP is the Columbus-based non-profit wholesale power supplier and services provider for 135 members in nine states. These member utilities combined serve more than 650,000 customers. AMP offers member municipal electric systems the benefits of scale and expertise in providing and managing energy services. AMP is governed by a 21-member Board of Trustees made up of officials from across the AMP footprint. The OMEA was formed in 1962 and represents the state and federal legislative interests of AMP and 80 Ohio municipal electric systems. The OMEA is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors made of officials from across Ohio, including 12 mayors.

Sub. HB 276 seeks to protect utility workers who work on the front lines to maintain our electric grid. These dedicated men and women can face a dangerous work environment. Specifically, the bill enhances the penalty for aggravated menacing when the victim is a utility worker engaged in the performance of their duties and the offender threatens the victim with a deadly weapon intending to obstruct the operation of a utility.

Electric line workers confront inclement weather, energized lines that are down, fire hazards, national security threats, as well as all manner of unfriendly circumstances associated with the disconnection of service for non-payment. All of these risks can impair safe operations of the grid but most are unavoidable. Protecting utility workers from needless attacks and threats of violence should be a priority.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and urge your favorable consideration of Sub. HB 276.

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