



Tom Crawford, OCMA President, McWane Ductile
Kevin Schmidt, OCMA Executive Director

May 26, 2021

Chairman Jim Hoops
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Proponent Testimony on House Bill 260

Chairman Hoops:

I write on behalf of the members of the Ohio Cast Metals Association (OCMA). The OCMA is the statewide association of foundries and foundry suppliers in Ohio. Ohio is the largest cast-metals state in the union boasting dozens of foundries employing tens of thousands of Ohioans. Our foundries range from grey iron, to ductile iron, bronze, and nearly any other alloy you might imagine. Cast metal products are a necessary component in modern life and there is not a day that goes by where you won't use at least one.

The premise behind HB 260 is simple – give customers back their money that was collected unlawfully. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio does this for other utilities and Ohio's electric distribution utilities should not benefit from ill-gotten gains. Recently, OCMA members in FirstEnergy's service territory were exposed to an illegal "market development rider" that pocketed an estimated \$204 million in FirstEnergy's coffers. The rider was found to be illegal after 2 years of the company collecting it. I can assure you, the dollars would have been better kept in employers hands and not padding FirstEnergy's stock price. HB 260 would make utilities think twice about the riders they propose at the PUCO and ensure consumers are protected.

HB 260 is common sense reform to a broken system. The OCMA and its members urge your support.

Respectfully,

Kevin Schmidt
OCMA Executive Director

CC: House Public Utility Members

The Ohio Cast Metals Association
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