



**Before the House Public Utilities Committee
Proponent Testimony on House Bill 364
March 30th, 2022**

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chairman Ray, Ranking Member Smith and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, my name is Stephanie Kromer, and I am the Director of Energy and Environmental Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 364.

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate, and we represent small and large companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

House Bill 364 seeks to provide clarity and streamline the preparation and regulatory evaluation of SIC filings for private water and wastewater companies. Often in order to fulfill Ohio and US EPA compliance, these companies may need to upgrade entire systems rather than replace them with the same equipment if the equivalent is no longer produced. HB 364 will permit these actions as long as the investment is deemed prudent and qualifies for inclusion under the SIC. The SIC will also remain capped at 3% for a sewage disposal systems company and 4.25% for a waterworks company to ensure that customers will not experience dramatic price shocks at the following rate case.

Access to safe, clean water is a distinct advantage for businesses to when they locate or grow within our state. Therefore, HB 364 is necessary to create a process to address the timeliness of aging water and sewage disposal infrastructure investment needed in order to maintain the water quality that Ohio businesses rely on.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 364 which we urge the committee to favorably report for consideration.