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**Proponent Testimony of the Ohio Apartment Association
On Senate Bill 193**

**Senate Energy and Public Utilities Commission
May 17, 2022**

Chairman McColley and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Commission, thank you for the opportunity to provide support today for Senate Bill 193 to prohibit political subdivisions from applying liens to property with unpaid water bills on behalf of the Ohio Apartment Association (OAA). OAA is a federation of nine local apartment associations around the state. OAA members own or manage about 500,000 rental units across the state of Ohio.

Our members support the position that the individual in contract with the political subdivision for water services should be the party responsible for any unpaid water service charges.

As has been highlighted by previous testimony, political subdivisions frequently place liens on the property to secure unpaid water service charges.

But where the property owner and individual in contract to receive the service are not the same party – as can be the case in a landlord-tenant situation – we believe it is unfair to the property owner to have their property put at risk due to the actions of the tenant. The political subdivision's recourse should be limited to the party they were in contract with.

Thus, we support passage of Senate Bill 193. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Swanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Swanson
Executive Director
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