



**Tim Williams, Executive Director
Ohio Manufactured Homes Association
House Public Utilities Committee
House Bill 226 proponent testimony
January 24, 2024**

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Robb Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, I am Tim Williams, Executive Director of the Ohio Manufactured Homes Association. On behalf of the Ohio Manufactured Homes Association, I am providing a proponent statement on House Bill 226.

Since 1947 the Ohio Manufactured Homes Association (OMHA) has represented all segments of the manufactured housing industry providing affordable housing to over 900,000 Ohioans living in manufactured homes. Our mission is to help people experience the lifestyle associated with home ownership in the most economical way. Whether it's in a planned community or on the land of their choice, manufactured homes exist to provide comfort, safety, and convenience in the most economical and desirable way.

OMHA supports the sponsors' efforts to address the issue of lead lines in Ohio. Our homeowners, like all Ohio residents, are rightly concerned about the potential for lead in our drinking water. However, as the sponsors noted, replacing the customer side of lead service lines is simply too expensive for many. When the financial burden is too high, the result is living with potentially dangerous water systems. By creating a mechanism that would allow PUCO regulated water utilities to bear and recover the cost of replacing customer side service lines, HB 226 helps alleviate this financial burden on homeowners and facilitates the improved safety of our water.

One point of clarification we would ask of the Committee is to ensure that the definition of "customer-owned water service line" includes homes located in a manufactured home community. For residents within a manufactured home community, the land is owned by the community operator and some residents rent their home and the land, while other residents own their home and rent the land. Regardless of the ownership structure, we recognize the intent of the bill is to help Ohio residents have safe drinking water. OMHA asks that the Committee consider



an amendment to clarify that manufactured home community owners are included in the definition of “customer-owned water service line” and therefore eligible to have the costs of replacement lines covered by the public utility. This will ensure that residents of these communities are also able to benefit from the bill’s provisions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for your consideration and the opportunity to provide comments in support of House Bill 226.