

**Association of Ohio Metropolitan Wastewater Agencies**  
**Diana Christy, President**  
**H.B. 507**  
**House Technology & Innovation Committee**

Chairwoman Miller, Vice Chair Claggett, Ranking Member Abdullahi, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Association of Ohio Metropolitan Wastewater Agencies (or "AOMWA"). My name is Diana Christy, and I am the President of AOMWA and the Director of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati.

AOMWA is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the interests of public wastewater agencies across the state of Ohio, and AOMWA's members include the cities of Akron, Avon Lake, Bowling Green, Canton, Columbus, Dayton, Euclid, Fairfield, Hamilton, Lancaster, Lima, Lorain, Marysville, Middletown, Newark, Port Clinton, Portsmouth, Salem, Solon, Springfield, Wadsworth, and Warren, as well as the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Tri-Cities North Regional Wastewater Authority, Butler County, Greene County, Montgomery County, and Summit County. AOMWA serves more than 4 million Ohioans and successfully treats more than 320 billion gallons of wastewater each year.

AOMWA supports H.B. 507 because this bill provides an affirmative defense, or safe harbor, for municipal utilities based on certain cybersecurity incidents. For example, if a data breach occurs, certain municipalities would receive safe harbor protection under an affirmative defense if they develop and comply with a specified type of cybersecurity program.

In 2018, the General Assembly passed a bill that already provides this protection for businesses. These safe harbor protections are now in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1354, and this measure would clarify that these protections are also available to municipal entities as well. Extending the protection in this manner would encourage more municipalities and political subdivisions to develop cybersecurity programs.

H.B. 507 would also be welcomed by wastewater utilities because it encourages the development of cybersecurity programs without requiring them. By providing a safe harbor to those utilities that develop cybersecurity programs, and by providing options as to the specific program that is adopted, the bill incentivizes utilities to be proactive without mandating any one-size-fits-all solutions.

AOMWA and its member agencies strongly support H.B. 507. Chairwoman Miller and Members of the Committee, your attention and consideration in this matter are very much appreciated.