

October 1, 2025

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Abdullahi, and esteemed members of the House Development Committee:

My name is Shawn Gray,

I am the Business Manager of Cleveland Plumbers Union Local 55. I am here today to express my belief in HB 307 and why I believe Responsible Contractor Language needs to be included.

The OH Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Act, HB 307 is crucial for our State. By not passing this Bill and including the Responsible Contractor Language, it will cost our state more in the long run. Ohio, like every other state, experiences thousands of lead poisoning cases each year when children are exposed to lead. Often times that leads to state and local health departments having to utilize significant amounts of resources to conduct investigations to determine where the poisoning happened vs. proactively taking out a known source via LSLR. When lead poisoning happens, not only does the public sector utilize a great deal of resources taking care of those poisoned, but everyday people end up spending their hard-earned dollars on medical bills, and many other of the people affected (mostly children) are on state health insurance. There was a study completed by Scioto Analysis that specifies for every \$1 invested in LSLR Act the state will save \$45 in return.

The reason I believe that this Bill should include Responsible Contractor Language is because it is critical to safeguarding both public safety and taxpayer interests. It will ensure that projects awarded under the statute are not awarded simply on lowest bid, but on a contractor's demonstrated ability to deliver high-quality workmanship. Responsible contracting does not mean accepting the lowest bid, but accepting the most responsible and responsive bid at a reasonable cost. By including this principle in HB 307, the state can deter contractors who have poor safety records, payroll violations, or histories of incomplete performance from being rewarded at public expense. Responsible Contractor provisions offer legal and practical protections. The Responsible Contractor clauses can mandate compliance with wage, benefit, safety, and licensing laws, further reducing legal exposure and ensuring fairness among bidders. Along with the Responsible Contractor provision comes the fact that the Responsible Contractor has the properly trained workforce who have served through an accredited apprenticeship program as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I ask that you please consider passing such an incredibly important bill for the future of Ohioans.