OHIO HOUSE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Oct. 8, 2025

Written Opponent Testimony
House Bill 307

Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Brownlee, and members of the Ohio House Development Committee:

My name is Kent Scarrett, and I am the executive director of the Ohio Municipal League, a statewide association representing more than 730 of Ohio's cities and villages. On behalf of the league, thank you for the opportunity to provide written opponent testimony on House Bill 307, a bill that seeks to eliminate lead service lines across the state.

The league and our member municipalities share the goal of Ohioans having access to clean drinking water free from the dangers of lead contamination. Ohio's municipal leaders have long worked with the Ohio EPA and local health departments to identify and replace lead service lines, protect public health, and comply with federal and state drinking water standards.

However, we respectfully oppose House Bill 307 because it would impose significant, unfunded costs on local governments and their residents without providing a sustainable funding mechanism to achieve its ambitious goals.

House Bill 307 would require the replacement of all lead service lines in Ohio within 15 years of its effective date — an undertaking that the Legislative Service Commission estimates would cost approximately $16.1 billion statewide. Compliance would be significant for local governments, even assuming the use of state and federal grants.

While the bill allows systems to recover costs through rates, rents, and charges, that authority already exists — and in practice, it means passing costs directly to local residents and small businesses. For most communities, that is not a viable or equitable solution.

We urge lawmakers to recognize that even the best-intentioned mandates can fail if local governments are financially unable to implement them.

The Ohio Municipal League therefore urges this committee to oppose the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.