



**HOUSE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WRITTEN OPPONENT TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 307
October 8, 2025**

Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Brownlee, and members of the House Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written opponent testimony today on House Bill 307. As a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio's largest cities, we write today not to oppose the substance of this bill, but to express our urgent concern that this bill will cost Ohio cities \$16 billion and requires funding assistance to help local governments enact it.

The dangers of lead pipes are well known, and we are thankful to Representatives Jarrells and Robb Blasdel for their advocacy on this issue. Our mayors share the representatives' desire to ensure that no more Ohio children suffer the lifelong impacts of lead poisoning.

That said, replacing lead lines is very expensive. Many of our cities have already dedicated American Rescue Plan and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to replacing lead lines. As that money runs out, though, and as our federal government partners continue to pull back on both future and already awarded funding commitments, we urge caution with regard to ensuring that HB 307's financial assistance program for low or moderate income Ohioans comes with state funding assistance to ensure that all local governments can make the financial and resource investments required by the bill.

Especially in many of Ohio's older core cities, infrastructure funding, even when it is robust, is not enough. Unfortunately, the cities and villages that are likely to have the most lead pipes are, in many cases, also the least likely to have growing revenue sources to assist with the financial costs of a 15 year lead replacement program. **The LSC fiscal note for this bill estimates its costs at over \$16 billion over the next 15 years.** Local governments simply cannot raise this money by raising water and sewer rates on residents.

For that reason, we urge you to dedicate state money to the costs of this program as you evaluate HB 307. We share the desire to remove and replace lead pipes in all of our cities as quickly as possible, but an unfunded mandate that costs Ohioans billions of dollars is not the best way to achieve this outcome.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, and for your ongoing collaboration with our cities.