



**Proponent Testimony on House Bill 379**

Tom Walsh, Associate Vice President for State Relations

Office of Government Affairs

The Ohio State University

*October 8, 2025*

Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Brownlee, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on House Bill 379. My name is Tom Walsh, and I serve as Associate Vice President for State Relations at The Ohio State University. I would like to express our appreciation for including these technical provisions of House Bill 379 that authorize the granting of perpetual easements on state-owned land held for the use by The Ohio State University. I also want to thank Representative Jodi Salvo for sponsoring and advancing this important legislation.

House Bill 379 authorizes the Director of Administrative Services to convey several perpetual easements to the City of Columbus and Columbia Gas of Ohio for public infrastructure located on land managed by Ohio State in Franklin County. These easements support university renovation and expansion projects as well as utility system upgrades for stormwater management, sanitary, and natural gas systems. The affected parcels are located in and around the university's Columbus campus, including areas along Woodruff Avenue, Kenny Road, and Ackerman Road.

The legislation provides formal legal authority for the City of Columbus and Columbia Gas of Ohio to access and maintain these systems through clearly defined easements. These easements are limited in scope, do not involve the sale of land, and preserve the State's ownership of the property for the future.

We appreciate the coordination with the General Assembly, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, the City of Columbus, and our utility partners in advancing this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 379.