



BEAVERCREEK TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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April 1, 2025

To: Representative Thomas Hall

Re: Testimony for H.B. 139

The Beaver Creek Township Fire Department (BTFD) is in favor of H.B. No. 139 of the 136th General Assembly. Our organization, much like many other across the State, is in a jurisdiction subject to a separate governmental water purveyor. In certain circumstances, this offers issues with understanding of reliability of fire hydrants. Entities like ours want to assist in the inspections and testing of the hydrants and water systems, but the water purveyors are reluctant. They fear the potential damage the fire department personnel may cause during the operations out ways the reliability. Reliability of the fire hydrants and water systems in the event of an emergency is far more important than the fear of damage during non-emergent maintenance.

Unfortunately, the Ohio Fire Code (OAC 1301:7-7) does not contain provisions for the inspection, testing and maintenance of public fire hydrants; it only provides requirements for private fire main systems. Currently, water purveyors are responsible for that activity. H.B. 139 would allow the local fire departments through the State Fire Marshal and Ohio Revised Code to conduct inspection, testing and maintenance of fire hydrants. However, we feel the coordination and cooperation with the water purveyor is essential and should be outlined in the Bill. In addition, references to the standards that guide the inspecting, testing and maintaining of fire hydrants should be included. We are proposing that language be added to Section 3737,834 (C) of the Bill to include the reference standards:

“...inspected, tested, and maintained per the American Water Works Association, Manual of Water Supply Practices – M17, Fire Hydrants: Installation, Field Testing, and Maintenance (current edition) and the National Fire Protection Association 291, Recommended Practice for Fire Flow Testing and Marking of Hydrants (current edition) and at the following intervals:”

Please consider these additions to H.B. 139 and consider the passage of the Bill.

Respectfully,

Randall A. Grogean, Division Chief/Fire Marshal
Beaver Creek Township Fire Department