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PROPONENT TESTIMONY – SUBSTITUTE S.B. 103
OHIO SENATE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
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Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair Reineke, Ranking Minority Member DeMora, ladies and gentlemen of the Ohio Senate Public Utilities Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer proponent testimony in support of Substitute Senate Bill 103.

My name is Bob Davis and I am President of Aqua Ohio, which is Ohio's largest investor-owned water and wastewater utility. Aqua serves more than five hundred thousand people in Ohio in 21 counties[1], 39 water systems and more than 2,400 miles of water main. Aqua is also regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

I am here today in support of Sub. S.B. 103 because of the recent additions of modern ratemaking reforms added to the bill.

Earlier this year, the Legislature overwhelmingly enacted H.B. 15 – legislation that reformed the rate case process at PUCO for the electric distribution utilities. These reforms included the use of fully projected future test years with multi-year rate cases, as well as deadlines on PUCO for rate case decisions.

Aqua regularly files rate cases – in fact we have one currently underway – but we applaud the General Assembly's decision to bring Ohio in line with many of our peer states when it comes to ratemaking. For example, Aqua operates in the states of Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Texas where use of these ratemaking tools is already available. The new process will significantly reduce what our industry refers to as "regulatory lag".

Sub. S.B. 103 now applies the same reforms you've already approved in H.B. 15 to the natural gas, water, and wastewater utilities. We thank you for this commonsense approach and urge your adoption of the legislation.

Thank you for consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

[1] Ohio Service Areas include portions of the following counties: Ashtabula, Ashland, Carroll, Columbiana, Franklin, Geauga, Lake, Lawrence, Mahoning, Marion, Morrow, Pike, Portage, Preble, Richland, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, and Williams.