



House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 276

October 10, 2017

Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Celebrezze and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, my name is Joseph Pheil and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA). I contact you today to express ORWA's support for HB 276. Since 1976 ORWA has provided on-site technical assistance to rural communities with water and wastewater systems throughout Ohio. Today, we continue to expand the base of benefits we provide to our members. Our system members provide water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.01 million Ohioans.

HB 276 is common sense legislation aimed at protecting utility workers that are threatened during the course of their duty. The utility workers employed by our members often provide services that are vital to the community and the state should do everything in its power to protect them from harm.

ORWA would like to thank Representative Rezabek and Greenspan for introducing HB 276. I urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Joseph Pheil, Executive Director
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