



**Senate Bill 95 Sponsor Testimony**  
Senator Lou Terhar  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
April 5, 2017

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Senate Bill 95.

The bill provides that Ohio licensed Professional Engineers can review and suggest any material they deem efficacious for a public water or wastewater projects. This change in law is necessary because at least 1/3 of Ohioans live in a public authority that has a historical preference or requirement for a particular piping material for various projects. In those areas materials choices are limited, and consequently, costs are higher for infrastructure projects.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, Ohio needs \$12 billion in investment in drinking water infrastructure and \$14.6 billion in wastewater infrastructure. To meet these needs we must use every opportunity possible to keep costs under control. According to an analysis by BCC Research, authorities who operate under unrestricted bid procedures spend up to 35% less on project material costs when compared to entities restricting bids to specific types of materials. This bill does not require the use of a specific material, but rather allows the trained and licensed Professional Engineer to consider all material options and select provide for all materials that will meet the requirements for the project, protecting both public safety and public financial interest.

Chairman Balderson, thank you again for allowing me to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 95. I will be happy to answer any questions at this time.