



October 18, 2017

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 95

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of SB 95.

My name is Matthew Kuwatch, and I am Vice President of Marketing and Business Development at Aurora Plastics, LLC. Aurora Plastics was founded in 1997 to fulfill unmet needs in rigid PVC compounds. We are based in Streetsboro, Ohio where we headquarter our Corporate Offices, Research & Development, and the largest of four manufacturing facilities. We employ 190 employees, 65 are located in Streetsboro and others at our Welcome, North Carolina; Marieville, Quebec; and Lunenburg, Massachusetts, manufacturing facilities. We are a merchant compounder of thermoplastics – that means we are in the marketplace, competing every day. Specific to water infrastructure we manufacture PVC compounds which are supplied to PVC pipe and fitting manufacturers.

Aurora Plastics supports Senate Bill 95 to give local governments' additional flexibility to consider all piping materials for water infrastructure projects.

I have been in the construction materials industry for 25 years and have seen the walls put up by legacy materials, whether it is water mains, sewer lines, or even the small diameter pipes in your house. I've seen it across the U.S. and abroad. When walls come down the costs to consumers, and the barriers to entry for small businesses also come down. We are a company of innovators and technicians and know that the best answer isn't for regulation to stymie business but to enable a level playing field where companies can compete fairly.

That is why this bill is so important. In requiring consideration of all materials that meet the "engineering specifications" of a project you set a technical standard, not a material standard. I believe that if a technology is proven and meets a reference standard approved by the local engineers for specific projects, all products regardless of material should be allowed to compete. If there are questions about material safety, I would be happy to answer them. In fact, I have conducted extensive research and done exhaustive life cycle assessment analysis of piping materials. But it shouldn't be necessary for this forum because that is what the standard setting bodies do.

Senate Bill 95 is a simple solution to a very real problem. There are market barriers and regulatory monopolies holding us back. And while it impacts our business and employees, it also affects every citizen of Ohio who pays higher water rates.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "m.r. 7L", is written below the "Respectfully," text.

Matthew R. Kuwatch
Vice President – Marketing & Business Development