



## **Senate Judiciary Committee**

**HB 276**

**May 15, 2018**

Chairman Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony on behalf of the Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) in support of 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.

The utility workers employed by our members often provide services that are vital to the community. Unfortunately, there have been situations where water and wastewater utility workers are threatened while on duty. HB 276 is common sense legislation aimed at protecting utility workers while threatened on the job. Ohio's leaders should do everything in its power to protect these individuals.

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

Sincerely,

Joseph Pheil, Executive Director  
Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA)  
55 Whites Rd.  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
740-455-3911