SPRINGBORO

May 28, 2019

The Honorable Jaime Callender
Public Utilities Committee
Ohio House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Callender:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in opposition of House Bill 163, which would restrict Ohio municipalities from charging "out of jurisdiction" rates for water and sewer customers.

The primary function of any municipal corporation within the State of Ohio is to provide police and fire protection, public parks, refuse collection, streets and a host of other basic services, including sewer and water to our residents. Providing some of those services (particularly water and sewer) come with a cost in addition to taxes paid by our residents and businesses.

Providing water and sewer services to users outside of our municipal corporation is a classic example of local shared services. While there is a cost for the services, those users outside of our city's jurisdiction are also not burdened with paying income or property taxes to our jurisdiction. In fact, we are not required to provide any water and sewer services outside our corporate limits – yet restricting what prices we can charge for those services greatly undermines Ohio's Home Rule tradition and years of encouraging shared services. Users outside our jurisdiction want / need water and sewer, so we should be permitted to provide those services, and charge a reasonable rate, to ensure safety and quality service, without the interference of the state.

Policies set by the state should support and facilitate the Home Rule of municipalities, grounded in our State Constitution and guided by our citizens. The issue of water and sewer charges is not one that requires state oversight, but rather requires a more intimate knowledge of the situation and are therefore decisions best made at the local level.

For these reasons, the City of Springboro opposes House Bill 163 and respectfully requests that the House Public Utilities Committee not report the bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Chris Pozzuto

Chris Pozzuto
City Manager