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**Representative Glenn W. Holmes**

**63rd House District**

**Sponsor Testimony- HB 84**

**Primary and Secondary Education Committee**

**March 26, 2019**

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 84. House Bill 84 is a fairly simple piece of legislation, so I won’t take up any more of your time than is necessary.

House Bill 84 is a permissive piece of legislation that would include water and sewer laterals located on private property as eligible projects under the State Capital Improvements Program (SCIP), as long as an easement has been granted. This allows local governments to apply for a grant and loan funding in order to repair or replace old water and sewer laterals.

The need for this legislation arose from a situation that the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) identified some years ago, when it found that many of our water and sewer lateral lines, the pipes that tie buildings into the main municipal lines, are in need of repair or replacement. The extent of the issue puts a significant strain on the efficiency of our water and sewer system, and the age of some of these pipes has elevated the risk of lead contamination in some water districts. To complicate matters, many if not most of these lateral lines are located on private property, which precludes the use of government dollars on their maintenance in most circumstances, leaving the financial responsibility with property owners who do not have the means to repair their own lateral lines to begin with.

I introduced this bill in the previous GA, as HB 221 and it was supported by the Ohio Rural Water Association as well as the Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts. I’m confident that HB 84, with your support, will help ensure that we retain the ability to tackle the threat that compromised lateral lines pose to public health and safety. I appreciate you granting me the time to speak in support of this important piece of legislation, and I welcome any questions you may have.