



*Ohio's "6119" Regional Water & Sewer Districts*

Chairman Dolan  
Ranking Member Sykes  
Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Re: Support for HB 7

Dear Chairman Dolan Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide comments on behalf of the Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts (CORD) in support of HB 7. As many of you are aware, Ohio's most precious and vital natural resource is our water. We would like to thank Governor DeWine and this body for supporting the H2Ohio initiative in the main operating budget (HB 166). While the resources dedicated in the budget is a significant first step, HB 7 is necessary to ensure funding is available to support future projects aimed at improving water quality.

CORD is a non-profit association established to assist, protect, and advance the interests of Ohio's regional water and sewer districts, also known as "6119 Districts" since they are established under Chapter 6119 of the Ohio Revised Code. 6119 Districts provide potable water, sanitary sewer, and storm water services to over 1 million customers in the State of Ohio.

Ohio's water and wastewater infrastructure is in dire need of repair and upgrades. Unfortunately, many communities are not in the position to raise the necessary capital to make such investments. The members of CORD applaud HB 7 for its creative solution to generate funding for such projects. By creating the H2Ohio Trust Fund, Ohio's lawmakers will establish the mechanism for ensuring the necessary resources are available to properly invest in improving our water and sewer infrastructure. The H2Ohio Advisory Council, consisting of representatives appointed by the governor, House and Senate will be created to establish priorities for the use of the funds.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate CORD's support for HB 7 and the work lawmakers have done in developing an innovative, long-term funding source for Ohio's water and sewer infrastructure needs. The members of CORD stand willing to be a resource to the DeWine Administration and the Ohio General Assembly as water quality projects are considered through the H2Ohio Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John B. Albers", is written over a blue wavy line.

John B. Albers  
Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts (CORD)  
Executive Committee Member