



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE**

HB 715

November 27, 2018

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HB 715.

Current Ohio law establishes that municipalities must create separate and distinct water and sewer funds that are collected from water and sewer rates. HB 715 would authorize municipalities to use up to 5% of the gross amount of the revenues deposited into this fund in order to extend water and sewer services when it is for economic development purposes.

Granting municipalities the authority to direct these funds into economic development projects allows a city or village to invest in itself, creating new opportunities for residents and job creators alike to locate in a municipality and grow the local economy. Under HB 715, city councils would have the ability to choose what is best for a municipality: either investing those funds into expanding water and sewer lines into new building or residential projects, or to keep those funds to repair and maintain existing water and sewer lines. Additionally, the city of Canton has a pilot program based on this formula and it was successful in encouraging economic development in the area.

We appreciate the work Rep. Schuring and his office have done in giving cities and villages across Ohio to tools they need to invest in themselves and spur economic development throughout the state. Thank you for your consideration, and we urge your favorable passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League