



May 23, 2019

Chair Oelslager, Vice-Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera and all members of the House Finance Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 7, which creates an H2Ohio endowment that would fund long-term water quality solutions throughout the state. The bill would create the H2Ohio Endowment Board, a permanent trust that would accept such contributions as donations, land, federal dollars and General Revenue surplus monies while being empowered to issue special obligations securities to fund projects approved by the H2Ohio Advisory council, which would also be created by the passage of HB 7.

Water quality issues impact municipalities across Ohio, and cuts to revenue streams and Local Government Funds over recent years have inhibited many cities and villages in their ability to fund measures that would address this problem. The creation of this ongoing endowment would help cities and villages across the state fund projects that ensure Ohioans are not continuously burdened by subpar water quality in the local communities where they live and work.

The League, on behalf of our 765 member municipalities. Thank Rep. Patterson and Rep. Ghanbari for their vision and commitment to ensuring improved water quality measures are funded long into Ohio's future. This issue is urgent and requires immediate attention, but it is also important to recognize Ohio's water quality issues cannot be solved overnight. The H2Ohio endowment fund would not only fund projects that demand immediate attention, but would also invest in Ohio's future.

We urge for your favorable passage of this bill.

Respectfully,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League