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State water industry leaders oppose mandated piping bill

Proposed legislation that would reduce local control of public water and wastewater systems by mandating the use of certain piping materials is opposed by the Michigan Section of American Water Works Association. Similar bills, known as the “public works quality materials procurement act,” have been introduced in 11 other states, all of which have rejected the measures.

“We oppose Senate Bill 157, because it would require utility owners to purchase specific piping material, whether or not it is the right choice for that utility in terms of function and cost,” explains **Bonnifer Ballard**, MI/AWWA executive director. “The proposal would take away utilities’ ability to determine the best materials for their facilities based on long term maintenance needs.

Action on the bill could be taken this week, so MI/AWWA is encouraging its members to contact legislators to voice their concerns.

Michigan Section of American Water Works Association is a vital community of nearly 1,500 water professionals in Michigan leading the advancement of water knowledge and improving the value and quality of water in our lives. AWWA is the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world’s most important resource.

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