



May 14, 2025

The Honorable Mark Johnson, Chairman
House Commerce & Labor Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Subject: Support for HB227 – Enhancing Excavation Safety and Utility Protection

Dear Chairman Johnson and Members of the House Commerce & Labor Committee,

On behalf of the Ohio Telecom Association, I would like to express our support for House Bill 227, which proposes critical updates to Ohio's excavation laws, including changes to notification timelines under ORC 3781.28(A). By shifting the current 48-hour notice requirement to two working days (excluding the day of the call) and extending the 10-day window to sixteen calendar days, the bill ensures that utilities have sufficient time to respond to locate requests safely and efficiently.

The bill also redefines the term "excavation" in ORC 3781.25(I) by removing a blanket exemption for governmental entities and replacing it with a carefully outlined list of low-risk activities that do not exceed a depth of 12 inches. These revisions, developed in collaboration with the Ohio Underground Damage Prevention Coalition, reflect standard industry practices and promote safer, more efficient operations.

In addition, the proposed language updates support Ohio's eligibility for grant funding through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), enabling continued education and safety improvements for the excavation community.

Finally, HB 227 eliminates outdated language related to Limited Basis Participants (LBPs), streamlining the one-call process and reflecting system upgrades mandated by HB 458 of the 129th General Assembly.

We respectfully urge your support of HB 227 as an important step toward improving excavation safety and preserving the underground infrastructure that serves all Ohioans. Thank you for your consideration and dedication to a safer Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charles R. Moses". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "M".

Charles R. Moses, President
Ohio Telecom Association