



Ohio Contractors Association

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May 13, 2025

The Honorable Mark Johnson
Chair, Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 227. My name is David Coniglio, and I am the Director of Labor Relations & Safety for the Ohio Contractors Association (OCA). Prior to joining OCA, I was the Human Resources/Safety Director with John R. Jurgensen Company (JRJ), a heavy/highway contractor in Cincinnati. My experience with JRJ included heavy construction, pipe installation, concrete and asphalt resurfacing and roadway milling, to name a few. These types of work almost always involve underground utilities and ensuring the safety of the crew and the public of those with potential exposures.

One of my responsibilities at OCA is representing our members as an active member of the Ohio Underground Utilities Damage Prevention Coalition (OUDPC). This group is comprised of industry leaders working to update and clarify Ohio's excavation and utility protection laws in a manner that does not unduly burden contractors while recognizing the inherent safety risks involved with underground utilities.

OCA supports HB 227 as it makes common sense changes/updates to current excavation laws. The bill before you represents an agreement reached by members of the OUDPC and has been vetted by both utility and construction organizations during numerous meetings. We believe these changes will make projects safer by not requiring utility locators to be exposed to traffic. In addition, the changes proposed could also allow projects to be completed in a timelier manner resulting in reduced traffic safety and delay impacts for the motoring public.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support for HB 227.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David G. Coniglio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and "C".

David G. Coniglio, SHRM-CP
Director of Labor Relations & Safety December 9, 2022