

KEEP SPECIAL INTERESTS OUT OF OUR WATER

VOTE NO ON S.B. 157

Background

There is a national, special interest effort to deny engineers, utilities, public entities and other water works professionals the ability to design water, wastewater and storm water drainage projects in the manner that best serves the needs of their community.

NO state has passed this type of legislation, and Michigan should not be the first and only to do so.

Similar bills have been introduced and failed in other states, including Arizona, Arkansas Connecticut, Indiana, Ohio, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. Congress has also rejected special interest efforts to include this type of preference in the federal highway bill.

Reasons to Protect Our Water Systems from Special Interests and Oppose S.B. 157

- **S.B. 157 is nothing more than a top-down, government solution to a problem that does not exist.**
- Engineers and communities need to retain local control in order to determine the best material(s) based on the factors important to the local community.
- Engineers have professional, ethical and legal responsibility for their design decisions, and this legislation undermines their ability to meet these obligations and exposes them to new litigation.
- The ultimate goal of this national effort is to use government to benefit an industry by forcing a product on engineers and water systems even when it is not the best material for a community.
- Nothing in state law currently prohibits local communities from specifying and using the pipe material of their choice, and there is no evidence that engineers and/or local communities in our state have been creating erroneous or otherwise improper specifications for water, wastewater or stormwater projects.
- Our water systems are too important to have outside, special interests undermine the ability of engineers and water works professionals to best serve the public. Furthermore, this type of legislation will only delay water projects and unnecessarily increase costs through litigation and additional bureaucratic red tape.
- All materials are not the same – they have very different service lives, durability, reliability, economic, health and safety characteristics.