February 11, 2026   *Via Email Delivery*

The Honorable Vanessa Oliver
Florida House of Representatives
1401 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: PCS for HB 1075 Municipal Utility Services
        02.12.26 Agenda, Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee

Dear Representative Oliver:

Thank you for meeting with me regarding the PCS for HB 1075. The PCS for HB 1075 prohibits a municipal water or sewer utility from refusing to extend utility services outside of its corporate boundaries solely because a property owner does not consent to annexation. It requires utility service if the property is not within another utility's service territory, the utility has "sufficient capacity," and the property is within one mile of a utility main line. The utility must undertake an analysis of its system capacity and respond to a service connection request within 30 days and may be subject to civil suits and attorney fees for noncompliance.

The bill is a significant departure from current law. Under current law, municipalities do not have a duty to serve extraterritorial customers. Municipalities that choose to provide this service to extraterritorial customers may do so upon request, but only if capacity exists and it is financially feasible. In some cases, the municipality may require the property owner to consent to annexation as a condition of service if the annexation meets the conditions of Chapter 171, Florida Statutes.

The following comments summarize the League's concerns with the bill:
- The one-mile proximity trigger is overly broad and will compel service based solely on proximity to any main line, regardless of system configuration, system capacity, or financial feasibility. The bill includes no requirement that the utility have sufficient managerial and financial capability for servicing these properties over the long term.
- It applies to any type of property of any size, including large-scale subdivisions, industrial users, and bottling plants.
- Mandatory extraterritorial service undermines long-range utility master plans, hydraulic modeling, and regulatory permitting assumptions based on defined service areas.
- The bill does not clearly preserve municipal authority to require off-site infrastructure upgrades necessary to maintain pressure, flow, fire protection, and wastewater conveyance.
- Extending service beyond corporate limits without annexation or land use authority increases the risk of uncoordinated urban sprawl and infrastructure oversizing. In unincorporated areas near a municipal boundary or within unincorporated enclaves, cities often indirectly provide public safety services through mutual aid agreements. In essence, these areas receive municipal services without fully paying for them. Cities often require annexation as a condition of service to ensure compact municipal boundaries and efficient service delivery. The bill's prohibition on annexation frustrates the statutory intent of Florida's annexation law, Chapter 171, including:
  o Ensuring sound urban development and growth
  o Ensuring efficient provision of municipal services
  o Reducing costs for local governments
  o Avoiding duplicative local services
  o Eliminating enclaves (unincorporated property surrounded by municipal property)

LOCAL VOICES MAKING LOCAL CHOICES

301 S. Bronough St., Suite 300
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1722

P.O. Box 1757
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757

Phone: 850.222.9684
Fax: 850.222.3806

flcities.com

- While the bill allows current law mechanisms to recover costs, please note that several bills filed this session would eliminate those cost recovery mechanisms. Even under current law, however, municipal residents may end up subsidizing services to outside customers because the bill does not require the utility extension to be financially feasible.
- The bill requires only that sufficient capacity exist for the service from an engineering perspective, which overlooks utility best management practices premised on managerial capacity, financial feasibility, and costs of perpetual service.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,

Rebecca O'Hara
Deputy General Counsel
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

cc: Chair Jacques and members of the Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee