

To: House Committee on Water

From: Wendi Stark, Legislative Liaison

Date: February 1, 2024

RE: Neutral Testimony on HB 2459 – Written Testimony

We want to thank Chairman Minnix and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2459.

Quality and quantity of drinking water is a concern for cities across the state. Our members support a clean and safe public water supply and the protection of public health and aquatic life. As such, our members have directed us, through our Statement of Municipal Policy, to support programs that encourage clean and safe public water.

Delivering clean and safe water is an essential service all cities provide to the 84% of Kansans who live in a municipality. The public water supply system is vital to our residents. The League of Kansas Municipalities believes that prohibiting the change of the point of diversion may inhibit cities' ability to provide clean and safe public water.

The League requests the Committee to consider, before passing legislation out of Committee, exempting cities from this bill.