



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
February 10, 2025

Proponent Testimony on HB 2172 - Establishing the Water Program Task Force

Dear Representative Rahjes and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2172, an act concerning water, which would establish the Water Program Task Force to evaluate the state's water program and funding for such a program. I appreciate the committee's attention to this critical issue and the chance to provide my perspective on the importance of assessing and strengthening Kansas' water resources management.

My name is Bruce Chladny, and I am the Executive Director for the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC). The KAC represents 101 of the 105 Kansas counties, and I am here today to emphasize that having access to adequate, clean water is a top priority for our members. Water is essential not only for the well-being of our communities but also for the continued growth and sustainability of agriculture, industry, and daily life across the state. It is vital that we ensure Kansas' water resources are managed wisely and responsibly for the benefit of all its residents.

We appreciate and fully support the creation of the proposed Water Program Task Force as outlined in HB 2172. This task force will play a critical role in evaluating the state's water program and ensuring that Kansas' water resources are managed in a way that addresses both current and future needs. *Additionally, we are grateful for the inclusion of one representative appointed by our organization, as it provides an opportunity for counties to have a voice in this important process.* We believe that this collaborative approach will help ensure that the needs of all Kansas communities are considered as we work to protect and preserve our state's water resources.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank the committee for your leadership and foresight in addressing the critical issue of water in our state. The establishment of the Water Program Task Force is an important step toward ensuring that Kansas' water resources are effectively managed for the benefit of all its residents. We stand ready to assist in any way possible as we work cooperatively to see this important legislation through the process. Together, we can ensure a sustainable and reliable water future for Kansas.

Sincerely,

Bruce Chladny
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