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**Testimony on House Bill 2172
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
February 10, 2025**

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Kansas Rural Water Association**

The Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) appreciates the opportunity to appear before this committee to testify to support House Bill 2172. The amount of attention paid to water resources in the last few years by the state is encouraging and long overdue. The Kansas Rural Water Association membership is composed of 468 cities and 254 rural and public wholesale water districts. The Association was founded in 1966 to provide training and support to Kansas' drinking water and wastewater treatment systems. The Association is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors elected by member utilities. KRWA has 26 staff members dedicated to training, providing technical assistance and advocating for water and wastewater systems across the state.

Many representatives from KRWA members and staff attended the Local Consult Meetings held this past summer and fall throughout the state and the Association appreciated the great effort of all who were involved in facilitating those meetings. Although needs are numerous and as diverse as Kansas weather, we must protect our state's vital water resources. The diverse group of willing and able stakeholders will ensure all Kansans' water needs are met through their input.

The Kansas Rural Water Association supports House Bill 2172 and asks this Committee to recommend it favorably for passage.