



# The Water Assurance Districts of Kansas

212 SW 7th Street - Topeka, KS 66603-3717

**To: House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources**

**From: Water Assurance Districts of Kansas**

**Re: Support of HB 2172**

**Date: February 10, 2025**

The Water Assurance Districts (WADs) of Kansas wish to submit testimony to express support for House Bill 2172. Creation of a Water Program Task Force is essential for effective implementation of projects under the Kansas Water Plan.

The WADs of Kansas are a major stakeholder in Federal Reservoir storage in Kansas, and as such, request that an amendment be added to this bill that provides for a voting member appointed by the WADs of Kansas to serve on the Task Force.

The WAD's are created under the Water Assurance Program Act (K.S.A. 82a-1330 et seq.) passed by Kansas Legislature in 1986. This Act allows municipal and industrial water rights holders on a stream with Federal reservoirs to form a WAD and purchase physical storage in those reservoirs. The WAD can leverage that storage during times of drought by release of water from WAD storage to supplement Member's downstream water demands. To date, three WADs have formed:

- 1987 – Kansas River Water Assurance District #1 (KRWAD#1)
- 1995 – Marais des Cygnes River Water Assurance District #2 (MRWAD#2)
- 1996 – Cottonwood & Neosho River Basin Water Assurance District #3 (CNRBWAD#3)

One third of the Strategic Implementation of the Kansas Water Plan focused on preservation of reservoir storage. Of the non-USACE owned conservation pool storage in the Federal Kansas reservoirs, the WADs own 35%, the State of Kansas owns 55%, and other small entities own the other 10%. With that storage, we provide drought resiliency to our members (to give full delivery of demand 98% of the time in a drought matching the 1950's drought of record). The WADs are in the process of negotiating to buy even more storage on the Cottonwood & Neosho River Basins to back up new demands created by industrial development at the former Parsons Army Ammunition Plant. We foresee needing to buy additional storage on the Kansas River Basin to back up new demands created by industrial development at the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant.

Since being formed, the WADs have made a significant financial investment in this storage, paying over \$12.6 million for the reservoir storage, with annual payments of \$500,000 to \$800,000 to cover USACE Operations and Maintenance costs incurred on this storage.

Currently, our reservoir storage backs up 250 million gallons a day in water demand. With that, we provide drought resiliency to multiple Evergy power production facilities, several industries,

and over 1.2 million Kansans through our public water supply members and their wholesale customers. That's 40 percent of the population in Kansas. The Water Assurance Districts of Kansas want to provide our support for HB 2172 and request the Committee's consideration of our amendment.

Thank you.

## The Water Assurance Districts of Kansas

### **KRWAD #1**

City of Junction City  
City of Manhattan  
Evergy Jeffry EC  
City of Topeka  
Hills Foods  
Evergy Tecumseh EC  
Futamura USA  
Evergy Lawrence EC  
City of Lawrence  
PWWSD #25  
Sunflower Redevelopment  
City of De Soto  
City of Olathe  
Suburban  
City of Bonner Springs  
WaterOne  
Kansas Avenue, LLC

### **MRWAD#2**

City of Ottawa  
Franklin Co RWD #6  
City of Osawatomie  
MdC Public Util Auth  
City of La Cygne  
Evergy La Cygne GS  
City of Melvern

### **CNRBWAD#3**

Ash Grove Cement  
City of Burlington  
City of Chanute  
City of Chetopa  
City of Council Grove  
Day & Zimmerman  
City of Emporia  
City of Erie  
Great Plains Dev  
City of Humboldt  
City of Iola  
Monarch Cement  
City of Oswego  
City of Parsons  
PWWSD #5  
City of Saint Paul  
Evergy Neosho EC