



*Testimony Submitted to the*  
**House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**  
February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Joshua Svaty, on behalf of the  
Kansas Municipal Utilities*

**Testimony in Support of HB 2172**

Thank you Chairman Rahjes, Vice-Chair Neelly, Ranking Member Featherston and members of the committee for scheduling a hearing and the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2172. The Kansas Municipal Utilities is pleased to stand as an organization in support of the bill.

Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) is the statewide association representing Kansas cities and other public or not-for-profit organizations involved in the ownership and operation of publicly owned utilities across Kansas. Formed in 1928, KMU provides assistance and information to members with regard to workforce training and educational programs, mutual aid, regulatory and legislative assistance and numerous other services toward the advancement of municipal utilities to achieve maximum benefits for the customer-owners served by our utilities. Our membership ranges in size from some of the largest utilities in the state such as those operated by the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities and the City of Wichita down to some of the smallest utility systems serving fewer than 100 customers.

Kansas Municipal Utilities, on behalf of its members and the over 900 public water systems across the State of Kansas, supports HB 2172. "Managing water" is a multi-faceted, 24/7 effort on the part of our member communities. Every day they must ensure that their citizens have an adequate water supply, that their water is clean, safe to drink, and meets standards that are changing and evolving, and that the water that is used by the community meets myriad standards for safety when it leaves the community. Our communities take pride in this effort and consider their work to be quite literally the front line and first defense of a healthy public.

Beyond the immediate safe drinking water needs of our public, communities must also plan for future water use and the opportunity to attract businesses that will undoubtedly need some amount of water for their industry. The long-term availability of water is one of the most critical components of economic development.

Because of this, we support the idea behind HB 2172 – putting together a water program task force. We applaud and have participated in the state's increased attention and funding of water program efforts in the last few years and believe that now is the time to have a task force helping guide that effort to make sure the state is best leveraging the public's dollars to protect one of the public's most treasured resources. It is good for the state to invest in this resource; it is good for the state to create a task force that ensures we are making the best investment possible. Kansas Municipal Utilities and its members stands ready to participate in and support the work of the Task Force.