



CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS

Office of the City Manager
Randy Frazer, City Manager

January 29, 2025

Chairperson and Members of the Committee on Water
Kansas State Legislature
300 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2112

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Arkansas City to express our strong support for House Bill 2112. This bill represents a vital and long-overdue step in ensuring the continued safety, reliability, and efficiency of water supply systems across Kansas by modernizing the operator certification program.

The Kansas operator certification program has remained stagnant with fees set in the 1970s. In order to uphold a high standard of excellence in operator certification aligned with nearly every other state in the nation Kansas must implement this critical change to its existing statute. By lifting the outdated \$25 limit on individual operator examination fees, the state can ensure that examination costs reflect current needs while maintaining accessibility for those seeking certification.

The benefits of this change are clear:

- **Enhanced Training and Development:** Access to current, standardized, and quality-controlled online examinations will improve exam preparation and increase success rates among prospective operators.
- **Improved Accessibility:** Modernized online testing will provide more localized and convenient options for exam-takers, reducing barriers to certification and ensuring that more individuals can enter and remain in this essential field.
- **Strengthened Water Systems:** A well-trained and properly certified workforce is crucial to maintaining safe and reliable water for Kansas communities. By removing outdated barriers to certification, HB 2112 supports the continued excellence of water and wastewater treatment in municipalities like Arkansas City.

Furthermore, HB 2112 eliminates outdated certification pathways that do not meet today's rigorous standards, such as certification via correspondence courses rather than classroom instruction. This ensures that all certified operators are receiving the comprehensive training necessary to safeguard public health and the environment.

In Arkansas City, we are committed to providing the highest quality water services to our residents. To achieve this, we must have a pipeline of well-trained, highly qualified operators

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who are equipped to meet the challenges of modern water and wastewater management. HB 2112 is a necessary step to ensure that operator certification keeps pace with current best practices, allowing for the continued development of a skilled workforce dedicated to maintaining Kansas' water infrastructure.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 2112 for the benefit of Kansas communities, water operators, and the public health of our residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Randy Frazer
City Manager
City of Arkansas City

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