



In Person Testimony Submitted to the

House Water Committee

Testimony in Support of HB 2112

January 30, 2025

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express the Kansas Section of the American Water Works Association's (KSAWWA) strong support for HB 2112, a crucial piece of legislation that addresses the pressing need for updates to Kansas' operator certification program.

As we face a hiring crisis and struggle to fill open operator positions, it is imperative that we take action to maintain a standard of excellence in operator certification. HB 2112 proposes essential changes to the current state statute to ensure the program's improvement, relevancy, and upkeep.

Additionally, HB 2112 addresses the outdated individual operator examination fee of \$25, established in the 1970s. This fee clearly needs to be lifted to meet the actual cost of operator examinations. By doing so, we can implement current, relevant, standardized, and quality-controlled online exams. This change will facilitate better exam preparation, increase access to online exams, and ultimately result in more individuals passing operator certification exams.

In summary, HB 2112 is a critical call to action to modernize and improve Kansas' operator certification program. I urge you to support this bill to ensure the continued excellence and effectiveness of our state's water and wastewater utilities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Gilroy".

John Gilroy, P.E.

KSAWWA Chair