



PUBLIC WORKS

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March 17, 2015

Chairman Dennis Pyle
Committee on Local Government
State Capitol, Room 159-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: H.B. 2164

Dear Chairman Pyle and Members of the Committee:

I am Riley County's Director of Public Works and County Engineer. Riley County supports H.B. 2164. H.B. 2164 is also supported by the Kansas Association of Counties.

Riley County currently administers the daily operation of 7 different sewer benefit districts. My department is assigned that task. My personal experience has been that typical repairs in a Riley County sewer benefit district often exceed \$1,000. But it is not practical to competitively bid the work required for such repair jobs. During a formal bid process, the sewer system may have to remain inoperable for several days. Most of Riley County's sewer districts operate without a backup system. So if a district's sole pump or blower breaks down, repairs must be made immediately to avoid potential discharges or sewage back up into a residence. Often only one or two local contractors are willing and/or able to supply and install the necessary replacement equipment. This is because a sole source equipment manufacturer must be used to maintain compatibility within a district's existing sewer system.

My experience with sewer benefit district repairs leads me to believe the current \$1,000 threshold requiring competitive bids is far too low to be practical. H.B. 2164's increase is far more reasonable. This increase makes the sewer benefit district statute consistent with the competitive bid statute governing repairs to county buildings, K.S.A. 19-214(a).

Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of H.B. 2164.

Sincerely,

Leon Hobson
Director of Public Works

cc: Board of Riley County Commissioners