



**Before the
Senate Committee on Utilities
Written Testimony on SB 412
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office
February 15, 2016**

The Kansas Water Office supports the favorable passage of SB 412, a bill granting an easement to Water District No. 1 of Johnson County.

The Kansas Water Office (KWO) has a long history of working with water districts across the state to provide a reliable, sustainable drinking water supply to Kansas residents. Water District No. 1 of Johnson County (WaterOne) is one such district. As a member of the Kansas River Water Assurance District, WaterOne is actively engaged in river management discussions and has a good understanding of the system as a whole. WaterOne currently maintains an existing weir structure on the Kansas River to support their water system with great success.

This legislation seeks to amend the current easement to allow for the installation of hydropower generators and equipment. The new project will seek to capitalize on the aforementioned factors to create a renewable energy facility to provide electricity to their water treatment plant. The project will create a good nexus, having the Kansas River provide the power needed to clean its own water to drinking water standards. Additionally, through adequate stakeholder engagement, KWO is confident that this project will not result in a change in river or reservoir management, will not increase consumptive use of the river, and will not prohibit future development on the river by other users. This will be a run of the river facility that will be operating by the natural flow of the Kansas River. For these reasons, KWO is supportive of this easement legislation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present information in support of SB 412.