



Department of Public Works & Utilities

Testimony Provided to the

House Agriculture

March 5, 2018

Joseph T. Pajor

Testimony in Support of SB 194

Honorable Committee Members:

The purpose of this testimony is to present the support of the City of Wichita, Kansas for the amended SB 194 concerning increasing the maximum rate of the annual water user charge by groundwater management districts.

The City of Wichita had concerns with prior language and the proposed amendments from the Office of Revisor of Statutes dated January 25, 2018 address those concerns.

Specifically, the bill as amended now provides a requirement for uniform assessments independent of where the place of use is relative to the boundaries of the groundwater management district and it preserves the ability of all water rights holders to pay the assessment only on the amount of water actually pumped.

While both considerations have significant pecuniary impacts on the City of Wichita, they both more importantly are good public policy. Uniform fees recognizes the uniform underlying value of water. The ability to pay on water actually pumped incentivizes conservation of the resource and wiser integrated resource management for those who have access to both surface and groundwater resources.

The City of Wichita appreciates the time and attention of the members of the House Agriculture Committee and the opportunity to present this testimony in support of SB 194.

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