

House Judiciary Committee

House Bill 2219

Testimony by Doug Mays Representing the Kansas Rural Water Association

February 18, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to the passage of HB 2219.

The Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) has active membership of 265 rural water districts in Kansas. The mission of the KRWA is to provide education, technical assistance and leadership to public water and wastewater utilities to enhance the public health and to sustain Kansas' communities.

All KRWA affiliate districts are each governed by boards consisting of unpaid directors nominated from and elected by the district members at meetings held annually.

As a part of its educational mission, the KRWA emphasizes the importance of adhering to every aspect of the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA), and carefully instructs its members how to do so. As a result, compliance is very high.

The rural water districts of Kansas, like other rural and small community boards, generally do not have the staff, the funds, the time, or the expertise to comply with this bill if passed. Nor is there any apparent need.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, HB 2219 is an onerous mandate in search of a problem. I urge your opposition to its passage.