



**To: Chairman Patton
Members of the House Judiciary Committee**

**From: Ellen Parker, Associate Attorney
WaterOne (Water District No. 1 Johnson County)**

Date: February 17th, 2021

RE: Proponent Testimony HB 2292

Chairman and Committee, thank you for the opportunity to come before you to provide WaterOne's support for House Bill 2292.

WaterOne is the public water supply system for 455,000 customers in Johnson County within a 272 square mile service territory. WaterOne uses a sophisticated SCADA system to conduct the water production and treatment process which is operated by trained professionals on a 24/7 basis. As a public entity, WaterOne is subject to the Kansas Open Records Act.

Due to the nature of WaterOne's operations and as mandated by the Federal Government, it has participated in security assessments which included cybersecurity assessments. Additionally, WaterOne has an Emergency Operations Plan which includes cybersecurity elements that is continuously updated in order to protect its facilities from threats. There are many examples, but the recent hack into a water treatment system in Florida highlights the unfortunate fact that utilities are targets of bad actors and would benefit from added protection of sensitive cybersecurity information.

House Bill 2292 will broaden the current exemption listed in K.S.A. §45-221(a)(12) related to security information to specifically cover records related to cybersecurity plans, cybersecurity assessments, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities. We believe these additions will strengthen the ability to protect sensitive cybersecurity information and therefore increase protections for the general public.

As such, on behalf of WaterOne, it is respectfully requested House Bill 2292 be passed by the Committee.

Ellen Parker | WaterOne (Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, Kansas) | Associate Attorney | 913-895-5511 direct | 913-526-3022 cell | eparker@waterone.org