

**TESTIMONY OR PRESENTATION INFORMATION
FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

Please send all testimony or presentations in pdf format 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting to Debra.Heideman@house.ks.gov

Name of Conferee/Presenter Brenda L Adkins

Agency represented Rural Water Dist #3, Jackson County

Bill # 2493

Proponent

Opponent

Neutral

Will your testimony be given:

Oral In Person

Oral Via WebEx

Written Only

If you are presenting testimony via WebEx, you will need to be sent an invitation to join the meeting. Please provide your email address.

Email address _____

If you are giving a presentation, please complete the following:

Name of your presentation _____

Do you need Audio/Video Equipment for your presentation? Please list.

Thank you,

Debra Heideman, Local Government

Committee Assistant

Room 149-S, 785-296-7681

Rural Water District # 3, Jackson County
P. O. Box 350
411 New York Avenue
Holton, KS 66436
(785) 364-3056 Office Phone
rwdmgr@giantcomm.net Email Address
jacksonrwd3.com Website

Testimony on House Bill 2493

To

House Committee on Local Government

February 14, 2024

Chairman Bergquist and Members of the Committee, I am Brenda L. Adkins, MBA, General Manager for Rural Water District # 3, Jackson County, KS located in Holton, KS. I am submitting comments in opposition of HB 2493 which concerns requiring rural water districts to publicly bid some purchases when the costs exceed \$25,000.

Good morning, Kansas Legislators:

I am writing in OPPOSITION Of House Bill # 2493.

To make rural water districts HAVE to bid out any projects over \$25,000.00 is absolutely ludicrous. Every project we have, small or large is well over \$25,000.00. To make us jump thru hoops to have to go thru the long bidding process and add thousands of dollars into the overall project cost is just pure crazy.

Our water district used to bid out projects from 2005-2009 and we found an excellent vendor/contractor that over 9 projects he under bid all the other contractors. Since we did the entire bid process nine times in those 5 years timeframes and one contractor always out bid the others and his numbers came in way lower, we decided from year 2009 on out we would only use that contractor. They have helped us out SO MUCH over the past 15 years and they always have a sharp pencil and give us very good numbers as I do cost comparisons to keep them honest.

But to make us bid out any projects would cost us SO MUCH more money. The entire bidding process takes a long time, and you incur large costs for engineering, legal fees, the bidding documents to be worked up, inspectors on the projects, etc.

We are very confident in the contractor we use, and they do design/build projects for us and do an excellent job. We would not want to go back to the old ways of HAVING to get bids. To force us into that process of getting bids is totally wrong and unfair and would cost us so much more money that we would have to continually be raising water rates due to these projects having to be bid. This would greatly upset our patrons by paying higher water rates and user fees.

We do at least two projects a year in our water district and some years we have done as many as four projects in one year's timeframe. This bidding process would slow down our progress greatly and we would not be able to get as many projects done in a year's timeframe.

Please do NOT vote for the passing of HB 2493. Vote NO to this. This would be so unfair and cause great harm and damage to rural water districts that struggle in this economy to keep water rates fair and low to our customers.

If you should have any questions on this, please feel free to reach out to me directly at rwdmgr@giantcomm.net or by phone to my office at 1-785-364-3056.

Thank you for your time and your consideration. I hope I can count on you to vote NO to HB 2435. Please do NOT make us be forced into a bidding process. I know many of the hundreds of water districts in this State of Kansas feel the same way as I do, and they have similar procedures already in place to ensure great pricing and fairness to contractors without having to go thru the bidding process.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda L. Adkins".

Brenda L. Adkins, MBA, General Manager
Rural Water District # 3, Jackson County, KS
Holton, Kansas