



Representative Jim Minnix, Chair
Representative Cyndi Howerton, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Water

Dustin Stambaugh
City Administrator
City of Ellsworth
(785) 531-2545

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Support for HB2302

Chairman Jim Minnix, Vice-Chair Cyndi Howerton, and members of the Committee. My name is Dustin Stambaugh, and I am the City Administrator for the City of Ellsworth. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support House Bill 2302.

I am writing to express my support for HB 2302 that provides funding for water infrastructure. As a public servant, I believe that access to clean and safe water is a fundamental necessity for all individuals and communities. The bill's proposed allocation of funds, starting at \$15,000,000 for water infrastructure projects will help ensure that communities across the state have access to the necessary resources for a safe and reliable water supply.

The City of Ellsworth is showing signs of infrastructure decay with the multiple water breaks we have had at various parts of town. We have utilized ARPA funds to replace water meters and we have sufficiently funded the water department to repair water main breaks and smaller issues, but we do not have the budget to completely fund the various projects that need to be done throughout the city to ensure our citizens will continue to have access to quality water in the future.

Our current operating budget for the city is at approximately \$3 million, which I have to divide between the various city services that we offer. Not enough to invest in major infrastructure projects needed to continue providing quality water to our citizens.

It is for this reason that I submit my support for HB 2302, but I also think that there needs to be more allocated and municipalities with populations over 2000 should have more fully funded grant projects. I know we are not the only city with a small budget with an aging infrastructure.