



TESTIMONY
HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

HB 2302

By: Fred Jones, Water Resource Manager, City of Garden City, KS

On behalf of the City of Garden City

February 14, 2023

PROPONENT

Deborah Oyler
Mayor

Roy Cessna
Commissioner

Shannon L. Dick
Commissioner

Manny Ortiz
Commissioner

Troy R. Unruh
Commissioner

Matthew C. Allen
City Manager

Chairman Minnix and members of the House Water Committee; On behalf of the Garden City Commission and Administration, we thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2302.

The Legislative Policy for the City of Garden City defines our water policy platform accordingly:

“Garden City advocates for all of their citizens to have access to clean, safe and affordable water. We also recognize that water is a primary community and economic resource and jointly advocate for programs and policies that assist our communities in making the infrastructure investments necessary to provide access to clean, safe and affordable water. Garden City believes that our voice on municipal water resources and use decisions at the regional, state and federal level will benefit both the users of our municipal water supply systems and (through conservation and use strategies with other municipal, agricultural and industrial partners) the long-term social and economic health of Southwest Kansas.”

Consider this example of how the State Water Plan Fund assists communities. The City of Garden City is implementing a comprehensive water reuse plan and has received local support from the Upper Arkansas River Advisory Committee. Resources, such as those proposed in HB 2303, helps projects like ours address regional water challenges and develop long-term strategies and planning efforts utilizing policy bodies such as the Kansas Water Authority.

The City of Garden City also supports the additional funding proposed for the Water Technical Assistance Fund and the Water Projects Grant Fund. These resources are important for the region and will help aid many smaller water utilities to ensure adequate access to safe, clean drinking water.

The City would recommend that the language in the bill consider a five-year review and evaluation of the funding mechanism and programs rather than a sunset. Public Water Supplies often find that water quality issues and the projects that result from our efforts to correct them, usually take a significant amount of time to address fully.

Given the importance of water to our local economy and the broader community of Southwest Kansas, we submit proponent testimony. We also wish to alert this body to our adopted legislative platform on the topic and welcome the opportunity to be actively involved with developing this legislation should it move forward.

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