



"Where Community Counts."

DATE: February 10, 2023
TO: Representative Jim Minnix, Chairman
House Committee on Water
FROM: Richard LaMunyon, City Administrator

RE: **Testimony in Support of HB 2302**

Representative Minnix,

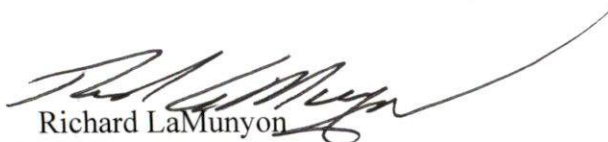
We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2302 that would provide for a water technical assistance fund for grant funding to municipalities for water infrastructure projects. You may know that Maize was named the fastest growing city in the state by the University of Kansas Institute for Policy and Social research. Maize grew more than 67% between 2010 and 2020. With residential building permits reaching a new high in 2022, there are no signs of slowing down. Maize currently has over 1,900 residential lots in the development pipeline. This represents 60% more residential units than what currently exists in Maize today. The incoming demand for additional public services and utilities is unprecedented.

The provision of funds from a water technical assistance fund directly correlates to a municipalities' ability to respond to economic growth. Inflation, supply chain issues and other cost increases have crippled the City's ability to stretch funds to meet the growth. In a recent project for a new sewer main, costs were more than 150% higher than the engineer's estimates. Water projects are also bidding out much higher than similar projects from several years ago. Such wild increases in costs for these types of infrastructure projects has forced the City to slow our response to the growth due to limited funds. We have struggled to find additional funding to cover the cost increases for needed infrastructure to serve and support the onslaught of new business and industry.

Not meeting the growth will have severe consequences. Maize completed a water and wastewater study in 2021. The study recommended a new 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank to serve future growth in Maize that will provide needed fire protection for the expanded Industrial Park, water service security for industrial users in the park, and water demanded by Maize's growing number of residents and businesses. The new storage was recommended as a short-term project **to be completed by 2031**. However, **due to growth exceeding the study's projections by 131%**, the new water tower **is needed now** with a revised storage capacity of 750,000-gallons.

We at the City of Maize appreciate your consideration and encourage the committee's support of this bill.

Best regards,



Richard LaMunyon