

City of McPherson

400 E. Kansas Ave.

P.O. Box 1008

McPherson, KS 67460



City Administrator 620 • 245-2535
City Attorney • 245-2535
Public Works Director • 245-2545
Fire Chief • 245-2505
City Inspector • 245-2547
Chief of Police • 245-1200
Sanitarian • 245-2548
Public Lands & Facilities • 245-2535
Cemetery Sexton • 245-2568
Tele Fax • 245-2549

February 10, 2023

City of McPherson Opposition Testimony for House Bill 2302 for February 14, 2023
Representative Minnix, House Water Committee, Chairman

Chairman Minnix, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the House Water Committee on behalf of the City of McPherson, in Opposition of House Bill 2302.

I am opposed oppose HB2302 in its current form. It does not address the following municipal water issue:

- Flexibility in point of diversion moves
- New application with offset
- GMD 2 reasonable municipal use regulation
- Dealing with ownership issues in unconverted water rights
- Increased representation on GMD Boards

I have been the mayor of McPherson for 14 years and served as Chairman of Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) for the past three years. There have been many attempts to work out a win win arrangement with GMD2 during those years. Last year, GMD2 did bring back municipal representation over a three-year period and were unwilling to have Wichita as part of the representation.

The City of McPherson has enacted several items to conserve water. Approximately eight years ago the City entered into an agreement with CHS, then NCRA, to provide up to a million gallons of gray water to the refinery. This agreement saved pumping just over 1400 acre feet of water from the Equus Bed annually. CHS paid \$900,000 to build the pipeline to carry gray water. We use our remaining gray water to water our city golf course and the remainder is sent down stream for agricultural irrigation. Pfizer and Viega use recycling processes so water is conserved. The McPherson BPU is continually replacing old pipe and implementing modern meters and efficiency programs to on water usage.

We continue to seek water policies that will help agriculture to be the best they can be as well as to grow the Kansas worker population and provide economic growth year after year. McPherson population grew 7.12% in 2020 Census and our unemployment is one of the lowest in Kansas. In 2018 we were the fifth fastest growing manufacturing micropolitan area in the United States. Improved water policies can be crafted to help Agriculture and Municipalities.

Very Respectfully.

Mayor

Thomas A. Brown

Commissioner of Public Facilities

Gary L. Mehl

Commissioner of Public Works

Larry E. Wiens