



To: House Committee on Water

From: Jake Letner, City Administrator – City of Columbus, KS

Subject: Support Testimony for HB 2302

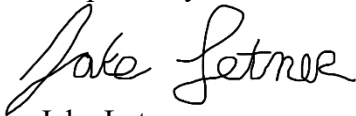
Date: 02/13/2023

I am writing in strong support of HB 2302, which would provide additional funding and resources for cities in Kansas related to water infrastructure. Small communities such as Columbus rely heavily on federal and state assistance to meet our infrastructure needs. The program proposed in this bill would directly benefit cities such as our own, and in my opinion, would be a great investment of state government.

As we are all aware, the pandemic led to steep price increases that have made operating budgets tighter than ever before. The very availability of water as a resource is a challenge for many communities, and they must also periodically replace and update expensive equipment and infrastructure necessary to deliver water to commercial and residential customers. Legislation such as this provide structure and support for communities as they navigate available resources to help finance capital improvement needs. Passing this bill would send a strong signal of support to our cities that will continue to battle this issue years into the future.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration and would hope that you all vote in favor of this proposed legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake Letner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jake Letner
City Administrator
City of Columbus, KS