

# Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

## House Bill 2302 Kansas Rural Water Association

Testimony by Doug Mays  
March 15, 2023

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2302. The Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) has an active membership of 265 rural water districts in Kansas, as well as 475 municipalities.

The Kansas Rural Water Association supports the passage House Bill 2302. The KRWA believes HB 2302 is a comprehensive bill of historic importance to the future of our state.

We, however, urge adoption of a short amendment to rectify what we believe was an oversight in New Section 3 (c). Present language restricts any loan forgiveness to those water and wastewater utilities that have outstanding loans through the revolving loan program for drinking water and wastewater administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Presently in Kansas there are extremely needy systems that have been constructed using the USDA Rural Development loan programs which have even a higher interest rates than the KDHE-programs. These systems should be included with the following suggested amendment to New Section 3 (c), following “ K.S.A. 65-3322, and amendments thereto”, insert:

**“; or loan balances payable to the United States of America/USDA/Rural Development for public water supply or wastewater system projects or improvements”.**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

# Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

## House Bill 2302 Kansas Rural Water Association

Testimony by Doug Mays  
March 15, 2023

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2302. The Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) has an active membership of 265 rural water districts in Kansas, as well as 475 municipalities.

The Kansas Rural Water Association supports the passage House Bill 2302. The KRWA believes HB 2302 is a comprehensive bill of historic importance to the future of our state.

We, however, urge adoption of a short amendment to rectify what we believe was an oversight in New Section 3 (c). Present language restricts any loan forgiveness to those water and wastewater utilities that have outstanding loans through the revolving loan program for drinking water and wastewater administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Presently in Kansas there are extremely needy systems that have been constructed using the USDA Rural Development loan programs which have even a higher interest rates than the KDHE-programs. These systems should be included with the following suggested amendment to New Section 3 (c), following “ K.S.A. 65-3322, and amendments thereto”, insert:

**“; or loan balances payable to the United States of America/USDA/Rural Development for public water supply or wastewater system projects or improvements”.**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.