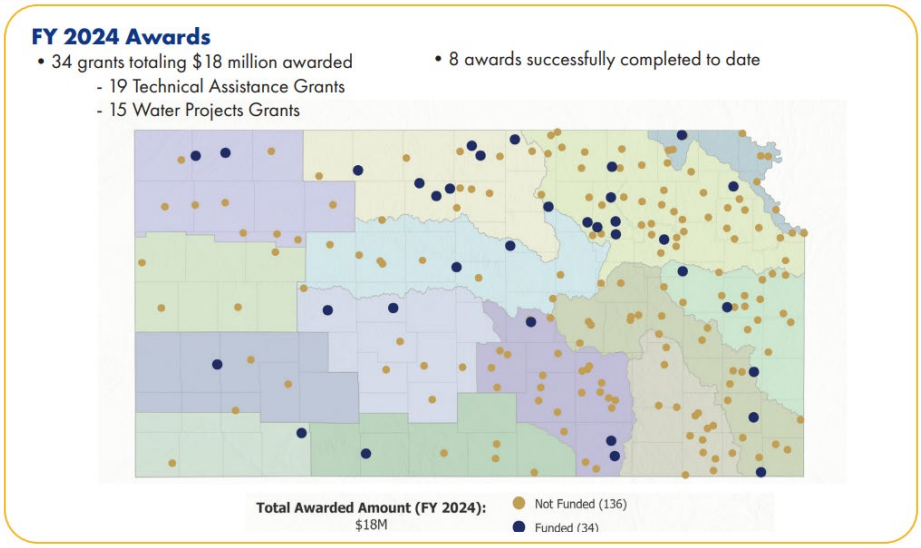
WaterOne
Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
From: Ellen Parker, Associate Attorney, WaterOne (Water District No. 1 Johnson County, Kansas)
Date: March 10, 2025
RE: Proponent Testimony HB 2113

Chairman Peck, Vice Chair Alley, Ranking Member Ware, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide WaterOne's support for House Bill 2113. WaterOne is the public water supply system to over 480,000 Kansans in 17 Cities covering most of Johnson County. Our service area is 272 square miles.

WaterOne appreciates the Legislature's commitment to fulfilling its statutory obligations and fully funding the State Water Plan for the past several years. The passage of HB 2302 in the 2023 Legislative Session brought a much-needed increase in funding to the Water Plan and created two new grant programs that have been successful in aiding communities and other stakeholders with water resource and infrastructure needs. As shown in this graphic from the Kansas Water Authority's 2025 Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature, there are funding needs across the State and those needs are unique.



As the drinking water supplier for nearly half a million Kansans, WaterOne has an obligation to our customers to highlight the challenges we face in Eastern Kansas and ensure that the Legislature keeps those challenges in mind as they consider the funding levels and allocations. Regulatory compliance and water resource protection are the highest priorities of WaterOne. It is imperative that the State invest in keeping the Kansas River a viable source of water for the municipalities that rely upon it to serve their communities, including WaterOne. Additionally, the health of our federal reservoirs is critical to the future of the State. These reservoir projects are expensive and complex, and Kansas will need to leverage federal resources to fix the sedimentation problems that are occurring. WaterOne respectfully requests the Legislature find ways to match federal funding opportunities to prolong the life of the reservoirs.

WaterOne appreciates the continuing hard work of the Legislature to address water resource issues in the State of Kansas. Every effort being made is a critical recognition that water is truly the life blood of our State. Thank you for considering our comments. WaterOne supports HB 2113 and respectfully requests its passage by the Committee.

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