THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

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To: Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources

From: Wendi Stark, Legislative Liaison

Date: March 10, 2025

RE: Proponent Testimony on HB 2113 – Oral In-Person Testimony

We want to thank Chairman Peck and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2113.

One of the biggest concerns we hear from our member cities concerns water. Across the entire state, access to water is a consideration that factors into growth and economic development in our cities. As such, our members have directed us, through our Statement of Municipal Policy, to support programs that encourage access to water. One of our top legislative priority's states,

> Access to water is paramount for the continued growth and viability of our communities. Government at all levels should aggressively pursue the conservation, protection, and development of current and future water supplies to ensure access to clean, safe, and affordable water for all Kansas residents. We support state action, in consultation with municipal providers, to address surface and groundwater resources.

HB 2113 aligns with this statement and provides additional funding streams for water infrastructure across the state.

First, HB 2113 would increase funding in the water technical assistance fund from $5 million to $7 million per year. The technical assistance fund provides grants to municipalities for engineering, grant applications and management, and other technical assistance. This fund allows all cities an opportunity to address their specific water infrastructure needs in their communities.

Second, HB 2113 would increase funding in the water projects grant fund from $12 million to $18 million per year. This program allows for the construction, repair, maintenance, or replacement of water related infrastructure. In addition, these funds could be used for matching funds for loan or grant applications.

Quality and quantity of drinking water is a concern for cities across the state. Our members support a clean and safe public water supply and the protection of public health and aquatic life. In addition, our members support broad-based revenue sources and distribution for the state Water Plan Fund. Increased funding for the water technical assistance fund and the water projects grant fund are tools available to any city willing and able to utilize it. These tools have been extremely valuable for those cities who need the most assistance to access safe and clean drinking water. In 2024, 20.1% of cities who applied for grants received awards. Out of the 219 municipalities who applied for grants in 2024 and/or 2025, 80 (36.5%) cities have been awarded grants.

Applications for grants ranged from cities with a population of 23 (City of Willis) to 165,281 (Kansas City). Of the 219 applications submitted, 100 (45.7%) came from cities with a population of less than 500, many of which are unable to qualify for traditional grants and which demonstrate the need for additional funding.

Additionally, the need for technical assistance or water infrastructure is not confined to one area of the state. The table below shows the number of applicants by region:

Region	Number of Applicants
North East	54
South East	40
North Central	42
South Central	38
North West	30
South West	15

Cities awarded grants in 2024 from these funds include:

- Atwood city
- Bern city
- Burden
- Burr Oak
- Chetopa
- Deerfield
- Dexter
- Downs
- Effingham
- Fowler
- Harveyville
- Logan
- Mankato
- McDonald
- Milford
- Miltonvale
- Moran
- Ness City
- Ogden
- Osborne
- Paxico
- Protection
- Randolph
- Republic
- St. Paul
- Tescott
- Timken
- Wakefield
- Waterville
- Williamsburg
- Wilson

Cities awarded grants in 2025 from these funds include:

- Alma
- Bartlett
- Blue Mound
- Bronson
- Bunker Hill
- Cawker City
- Chase
- Collyer
- Cuba
- Ellis
- Girard
- Goff
- Gorham
- Gove City
- Hamilton
- Harper
- Harveyville (also in 2024)
- Hartford
- Hill City
- Humboldt
- Huron
- Kanopolis
- Kensington
- Kismet
- La Harpe
- Lecompton
- Leon
- Leonardville
- LeRoy
- Liberty
- Liebenthal
- Marion
- Moscow
- Moundridge
- Norcatur
- Onaga
- Ozawkie
- Palco
- Parsons
- Plainville
- Potwin
- Pretty Prairie
- Quinter
- Randall
- St. John
- Sylvan Grove
- Sylvia
- Toronto
- Troy
- West Mineral (2 awards in 2025)

The League supports HB 2113 and asks this Committee to recommend it favorably for passage.