

**Testimony by Charlie Hunt with the Johnson County Department of
Health & Environment (JCDHE) to
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural
Resources Written Proponent for HB 2064 –
February 4, 2025**

Chair Rahjes and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 2064, a bill which would remove the current solid waste permit exception for the disposal of solid waste generated by drilling oil and gas wells through the practice of land-spreading. JCDHE's mission is to promote and protect the health and environment for all who live, work, and play in Johnson County.

A major concern for the public health of Kansans in Johnson County are the impacts from sludge and other drilling waste material on surface waters. Water resources are the most vital and endangered resources in Kansas; this is no different in Johnson County. Johnson County, like other highly urbanized areas of Kansas, is already required to address a myriad of pollution that has made our surface waters un-swimmable and un-fishable. Continuing to allow land application of drilling waste will only continue to degrade our water resources and waste tax dollars.

Johnson County continues to invest tax dollars and resources into fixing legacy and unregulated sources of pollution to our creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes. As a county with the largest population density in Kansas, we rely heavily on upstream water sources to supply our drinking water from the Kansas River. It is imperative that oil drilling waste not be allowed to contribute further to the massive water quality issues that burden our communities. The burden of keeping this source of pollution unregulated will be borne by Kansas residents, requiring further investment into treating our limited water in a time of scarcity.

HB 2064's allowing the permit process to apply to these disposal methods means we can better ensure environmental protections when such options are contemplated. As such, JCDHE asks that the committee recommend HB 2064 favorably for passage.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hunt, Director
Johnson County Department of Health & Environment

