

To: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

From: Wendi Stark, Legislative Liaison

Date: February 14, 2025

RE: Neutral Testimony on HB 2114 – Written

We want to thank Chairman Rahjes and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide neutral support of HB 2114.

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. As such, our members have directed us, through our Statement of Municipal Policy, to support programs that encourage clean and safe public water.

The purpose of this bill is to promote safety for those near dams. Unfortunately, there are dams that either have not been inspected or are not compliant, which in turn puts surrounding communities at-risk. This bill modifies the process for dam inspections and would authorize the chief engineer to assess penalties for violations, thus promoting safety in communities. This bill would also increase the fees to construct or modify dams.

Many cities have engineering services, either on staff or contracted, who conduct dam inspections. This bill would allow the chief engineer to approve a professional licensed engineer as an authorized representative to conduct dam inspections, which we support.

The League requests the Committee to consider, before passing HB 2114 out of Committee, capping the inspection and/or construction fees for cities with multiple dams.