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*Testimony Submitted to the*  
**House Local Government Committee**  
January 28, 2026

*Written Only*  
*Kansas Municipal Utilities*

**Testimony in Support of HB 2433**

Thank you, Chairman Berquist, Vice-Chair Blex, Ranking Member Featherston and members of the committee for scheduling a hearing and the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2433. Kansas Municipal Utilities is pleased to stand as an organization in support of the bill.

Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) is the statewide association representing Kansas cities and other public or not-for-profit organizations involved in the ownership and operation of publicly owned utilities across Kansas. Formed in 1928, KMU provides assistance and information to members in multiple areas including workforce training and educational programs, mutual aid, regulatory and legislative assistance and numerous other services toward the advancement of municipal utilities to achieve maximum benefits for the customer-owners served by our utilities. Our membership ranges in size from some of the largest utilities in the state such as those operated by the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities and the City of Wichita down to some of the smallest utility systems serving fewer than 100 customers.

Kansas Municipal Utilities, on behalf of its members and the over 900 public water systems across the State of Kansas, supports HB 2433. This bill reaffirms the authority of the Chief Engineer and Water Transfer Hearing Panel to regulate the appropriation and transfer of water that in compliance with state law.

To allow counties to enact duplicative and restrictive zoning regulations that negatively impact municipalities and other public water systems on their lawful use of their water rights could result in an environment where there could exist 105 distinct and non-uniform county processes that water rights owners would have to comply with. This would not only impact municipalities and other public water systems, but would impact manufacturers, dairies, feedlots, industrial customers, plus cities and their customers, stifling economic growth.

The water in Kansas is considered to be dedicated to the use of the people of the state, which effectively means it is owned by the public and managed by the state. Allowing counties to enact zoning regulations on the holder of water rights gives a county the final determination of how water rights are administered rather than the state. We believe that water rights should continue to be managed as a responsibility of the state.

Thank you for allowing us to provide testimony and we would be pleased to answer any questions.