

To: House Water Committee

From: Wendi Stark, Legislative Liaison

Date: February 11, 2025

RE: Proponent Testimony on HB 2302 – Oral In-Person Testimony

We want to thank Chairman Minnix 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. Out of the 156 municipalities who have applied for grants, 32 (20.5%) cities have been awarded grants, which demonstrates the need for additional funding. Cities who have been awarded grants from these funds include:

• Atwood	\$2,305,000	• Miltonvale	\$319,999
• Bern	\$30,250	• Moran	\$138,479
• Burden	\$823,055	• Ness City	\$150,477
• Burr Oak	\$1,028,749	• Ogden	\$404,710
• Chetopa	\$3,704,506	• Osborne	\$92,264
• Deerfield	\$464,000	• Paxico	\$618,240
• Dexter	\$159,500	• Protection	\$78,000
• Downs	\$348,823	• Randolph	\$650,000
• Effingham	\$300,000	• Republic	\$202,400
• Fowler	\$70,000	• St. Paul	\$505,000
• Harveyville	\$75,650	• Tescott	\$407,500
• Keats	\$359,100	• Timken	\$385,035
• Logan	\$500,000	• Wakefield	\$2,521,440
• Mankato	\$461,548	• Waterville	\$53,092
• McDonald	\$150,000	• Williamsburg	\$84,292
• Milford	\$388,000		
• Wilson	\$90,491		

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