



TESTIMONY

HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

HB 2462

By: Fred Jones, Water Resource Manager, City of Garden City, KS

On behalf of WaterReuse Association / Kansas Section

January 22, 2026

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Chairman Minnix and members of the House Water Committee, on behalf of the WaterReuse Association/Kansas Section, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2462.

In addition to my duties as Water Resource Manager for the City of Garden City, I serve as president of the WaterReuse Association/Kansas Section. The WaterReuse Association is the nation's only trade association dedicated solely to advancing laws, policies, funding, and public acceptance of recycled water. The association represents a coalition of utilities that recycle water, businesses that support the development of recycled water projects, and consumers of recycled water. In 2024, a select group of water and wastewater utilities in Kansas formed the Kansas Section of the association. The members of this organization represent a breadth of utilities from communities of less than 10,000 to the most populous city and county in the State. These communities are pursuing or investigating various forms of reuse. These include everything from irrigation of feed crops and industrial cooling to constructed wetlands, managed aquifer recharge, and indirect and direct potable reuse.

The use of reclaimed water is not pursued lightly. The communities have made significant investments in determining the best and most valuable use of reclaimed water resources. Several communities, including my own, Garden City, have conducted thorough feasibility studies with assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation. These studies have been eye-opening for community policymakers and have given a new perspective on what is and is not feasible for a community to pursue. Our organization wishes to continue assisting communities in this thoughtful consideration of how to maximize the benefits of our resources while protecting our water resources and the public who use water every day.

The WaterReuse Association / Kansas Section supports the development of reuse regulations by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for indirect potable reuse and direct potable reuse. We believe that established regulations will provide valuable assistance to communities studying the feasibility of various water reuse alternatives by establishing, in regulation, performance requirements for these two reuse alternatives. The ability of a community to better understand the infrastructure costs and processes required to implement these types of reuse will reduce the time and cost required to complete such projects. The goal of reuse feasibility is to find the best fit for a particular community or industry. The association is available to serve as a resource in this process, and we look forward to the State of Kansas' success in furthering water reclamation and securing our most important resource, water.