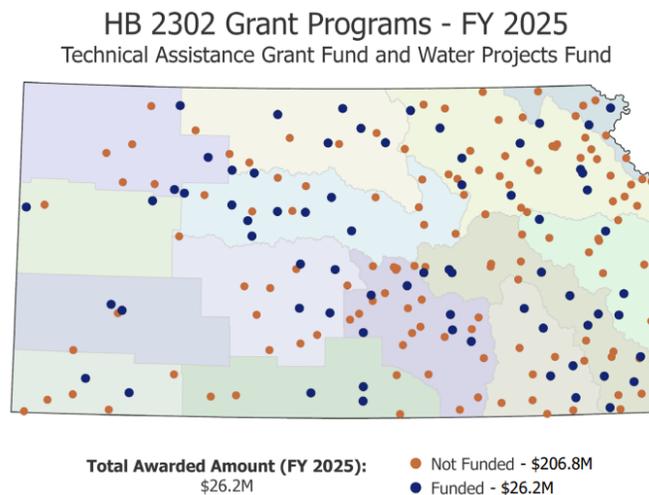


To: House Committee on Water
From: Ellen Parker, Associate Attorney, WaterOne (Water District No. 1 Johnson County, Kansas)
Date: February 10, 2026
RE: Proponent Testimony HB 2558

Chairman Minnix, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Vaughn, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide WaterOne’s support for House Bill 2558. WaterOne is the public water supply system to over 480,000 Kansans in 17 Cities covering most of Johnson County. Our service area is 272 square miles.

WaterOne appreciates the Legislature’s commitment to fulfilling its statutory obligations and fully funding the State Water Plan for the past several years. The passage of HB 2302 in the 2023 Legislative Session brought a much-needed increase in funding to the Water Plan and created two new grant programs that have been successful in aiding communities and other stakeholders with water resource and infrastructure needs. As shown in the graphic from the Kansas Water Authority’s 2026 Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature, there are many unmet funding needs across the State. WaterOne supports increasing the SGF transfer to expand the grant programs that are working and extending the sunset for the programs to 2031.



As the drinking water supplier for nearly half a million Kansans, WaterOne has an obligation to our customers to highlight the challenges Eastern Kansas faces and ensure that the Legislature keeps those challenges in mind as they consider the funding levels and allocations. Regulatory compliance and water resource protection are WaterOne’s highest priorities. It is imperative that the State invest in keeping the Kansas River a viable source of water for the municipalities that rely upon it to serve their communities, including WaterOne. Additionally, the health of our federal reservoirs is critical to the future of the State. These reservoir projects are expensive and complex, and Kansas will need to leverage federal resources to fix the sedimentation problems that are occurring.

WaterOne appreciates the continuing hard work of the Legislature to address water resource issues in Kansas. Every effort being made is a critical recognition that water is truly the life blood of our State. Thank you for considering our comments. WaterOne supports HB 2558 and respectfully requests its passage by the Committee.