

**To: Chair, Senator Dennis Pyle
Members of the Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee**

**From: Darci Meese, Government Affairs Coordinator
Water District No. 1 Johnson County (WaterOne)**

Date: March 7, 2013

RE: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 150

On behalf of WaterOne, I am submitting testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 150 intended to prevent municipalities from using bid specifications that target particular types of equipment or materials to be used on public projects. This bill eliminates the ability of design professionals to recommend the best quality materials or equipment for public jobs. In the end, the result may likely be more money spent in replacing or making repairs due to the use of low quality materials or equipment in order to achieve the lowest bid. Furthermore, the bill would all but eliminate the opportunity in certain instances to specify a piece of equipment or type of materials that is proprietary in nature. In many cases it is important to maintain compatibility within the water supply system with regards to certain equipment. If we can no longer specify the use of said equipment at the risk of being challenged by vendors asserting their equipment is a reasonable substitute, we again compromise the integrity of the water supply system and increase the potential for higher repair and maintenance costs down the road.

WaterOne is cognizant of the importance of getting the best value from public dollars spent. For that reason, our design professionals are meticulous about writing specifications that will result in the performance of high quality projects at the best value possible. It is important to consider not only the initial price tag on a project, but also the future maintenance and repair costs that may be incurred. If we are forced to accept substitute equipment or materials that do not turn out to be quality products, we will lose all the savings in making repairs later.

Darci Meese, Government Affairs Coordinator
Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, Kansas
913-895-5516 direct 913-579-9817 cell dmeese@waterone.org