



Testimony Submitted to the
House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee
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Kansas Municipal Utilities

Testimony in Support of SB 331

Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 331. Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) provided testimony in support of the measure when the bill was considered in the Senate Ag & Natural Resources Committee and was pleased to see the measure pass the Senate 34-0.

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 with regard to 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 in the state serving fewer than 100 customers.

As the Committee is probably aware, cities and other public water systems across the state are currently required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify and develop an inventory of lead service lines. The inventory requirements also encourage these inventories to include other potential lead sources including solder or flux containing lead. The initial inventories are to be submitted to the state's primary agency by October 16, 2024 which for Kansas the primacy agency is the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

On behalf of the community-owned utilities across the state, KMU and its members recognize the importance of removing possible lead sources in drinking water. KMU supports the intent of SB 331 from a public health standpoint and supports the changes to the bill on a going forward basis relating to the use of using any pipe, solder or flux in the installation or repair of any public water supply system or any plumbing in a residential or nonresidential facility providing water for human consumption that is not lead-free. The suggested changes in SB 331 designed to identify and reduce lead-based pipes in water systems simplifies and aligns state statute with federal regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on behalf of SB 331.