



**Before the
House Committee on Water and Environment
Testimony on HB 2513
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office
January 30, 2018**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Tracy Streeter, and I am the Director of the Kansas Water Office (KWO). I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2513 as it relates to surface water protection fees. I appear before you today on behalf of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA), which was established in 1981 to advise the Governor, Legislature, and Director of the KWO on water policy issues. I wish to share with you the policy statement on water funding in Kansas adopted by the KWA at their meeting on January 24, 2018.

The KWA supports the funding recommendations of the 2017 Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force for Water Resource Management. By statute \$8 million in funding (\$6 million from State General Fund and \$2 million from Economic Development Initiatives Fund) should be transferred each year. Until that \$8 million statutory SGF/EDIF fund is made, no new fees should be imposed, and current fee rates should stay the same.

While we applaud the efforts of this committee to highlight the need for additional funding, and identify possible sources, abandoning the recommendations of the Task Force in favor of specific, targeted fees, undermines the broader funding effort. The issues and projects identified in HB 2513 are worthy and reflected within the Long Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas. But they represent only a subset of the issues that need to be addressed. The needs for water projects in Kansas are geographically and topically diverse. The funding source to address those needs should be broad based as well to ensure all Kansans are participating financially in the effort.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today, and will stand for questions at the appropriate time.