



**To: Chairman Rahjes
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**From: Ellen Parker, Associate Attorney
WaterOne (Water District No. 1 Johnson County, Kansas)**

Date: January 22, 2024

RE: Proponent Testimony HB 2541

Chairman and Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide WaterOne's support for House Bill 2541. WaterOne is the public water supply system to over 480,000 Kansans in 17 Cities in Johnson County. Our service area is 272 square miles. WaterOne gets water from both the Kansas and the Missouri Rivers, so source water protection is extremely important to us.

WaterOne supports efforts to encourage the implementation of conservation practices across the state but especially those that will benefit the Kansans we serve by enhancing conservation efforts along the Kansas River. The creation of a dedicated conservation fund should provide the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks with additional resources they need to increase conservation efforts. We appreciate the accountability measures built into the bill and that each new fund will have oversight by either an external review panel or a voluntary advisory board.

The need for additional funding to help ensure a reliable and safe water supply is great. Although this bill is not solely focused on water, WaterOne recognizes that water is a big part of conservation in Kansas and therefore supports the effort.

WaterOne respectfully requests House Bill 2541 be passed by the Committee.

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