



Proponent Testimony on HB 2302
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources
March 15, 2023

Chairman Kerschen and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on behalf of the Kansas Contractors Association (KCA). The KCA represents more than 220 companies working in Kansas' heavy construction industry. Collectively, these companies create and sustain thousands of good-paying, private sector jobs across our state.

The KCA applauds the Legislature's efforts to address the water needs of our state and strongly supports both the water technical assistance fund and the water projects fund.

Many local communities struggle to find funding for local projects related to water. For many local communities, there is a tremendous amount of cost in maintaining water infrastructure while at the same time maintaining other ongoing infrastructure needs like roads and bridges. Local property taxes are the primary revenue source that many local communities have to maintain infrastructure. We support the efforts in HB 2302 to create grant opportunities for our local communities to invest in their water infrastructure.

I would like to point out to the committee, the federal government is also making water infrastructure improvements a priority. The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) enacted as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides for investment in U.S. infrastructure, including water. About 60% of this funding is considered formula or directed funds, which means it will have specific federal requirements. The remaining 40% will be competitive grants, which will have its own set of federal requirements. These funds can benefit Kansas infrastructure across the transportation, water, energy and technology sectors.

We believe HB 2302 is a great way to position Kansas communities for improving water infrastructure across our state. Again, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit these comments before you today. We appreciate your favorable consideration of HB 2302.

Michael White, Executive Director
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