



Testimony Submitted to the
Senate Local Government Committee
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Testimony in Opposition to SB 510

Good morning Madame Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 510.

Kansas Municipal Utilities (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.

The connection of a property to the sewer system is through a privately owned sewer service line. That private service line is then connected to a sewer system by tapping a sewer main which is a part of the wastewater utility collection system operated as an essential public service.

The sewer service line to a property and connected to the sewer system, in practice, is not disconnected from the sewer system. It does not have a valve or a meter that that can be shut off to discontinue the private sewer service from the sewer main. Once the private sewer service is connected, it is always connected. For a private sewer service line to not operate or flow properly is not due to disconnection from the sewer main, but typically due to a failure of the private sewer service line through an obstruction or a collapse of the line. If sewer service is discontinued and/or abandoned by the property owner, it is the responsibility of the property owner to have the service line capped to prevent inflow and infiltration into the public sewer system.

The sewer service to an individual property is a private asset, and the responsibility of operating and maintaining that asset lies with the property owner. If the



cost of reconnecting the private sewer line is placed upon the wastewater utility, it becomes a shift in responsibility and the associated cost transferred from the property owner and then subsidized by all of the wastewater customers.

We do not believe that it should be the responsibility of the wastewater utility system and its collective customer base to be responsible for the reconnection of private sewer service line of a single individual customer or property.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. We are happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.