



# CITY OF TOPEKA

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## OPPOSITION TESTIMONY

### House Water and Environment Committee

### HB 2513 – An Act Concerning Water; Surface Water Protection Fees

**Braxton Copley**  
**Deputy Director of Utilities**  
**City of Topeka**

**January 30, 2018**

Chairman Sloan and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Topeka, I would respectfully provide this testimony in opposition to HB 2513 for your consideration.

The annual impact of this legislation on the City of Topeka would be as follows:

- \$0.05/1,000 gallons surface water protection fee as a supplier would be approximately \$300,000.00 based on the amount of water delivered through our system in 2017.
- The City of Topeka is a member of Kansas River Water Assurance District No. 1 (KRWAD) as such the City would also be impacted by its proportional share of the proposed water assurance district fee of \$0.002/1,000 gallons storage capacity fee estimated to be approximately \$79,000 each year for KRWAD.

The new fees under the HB 2513 would be on top of the current fees that the City of Topeka pays. Set forth below are the existing fees paid by the City of Topeka for 2017:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| - Water Protection Fee - \$0.03 per 1,000 gallons sold     | \$ 154,010.45 |
| - Public Water Supply Fee - \$0.002 per 1,000 gallons sold | \$ 10,267.36  |
| - Clean Drinking Water Fee - \$0.03 per 1,000 gallons sold | \$ 154,010.45 |

Additionally, the City of Topeka as a member of KRWAD has purchased storage in Tuttle Creek, Milford and Perry Reservoirs for the purpose of being able to draw raw water from reservoir storage in the times of drought. Under the terms of Operation and Maintenance contracts among KRWAD, Kansas Water Office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) KRWAD pays 100% of all costs of maintenance expended by the Corps on the storage owned by KRWAD in the reservoirs.



The City of Topeka and other water users are already paying substantial fees to the State to sustain access to clean water. Further the fees proposed in the bill inequitably only apply to surface water and not ground water and irrigation. The imposition of additional fees targeted towards ground water should be rejected in favor of State General Fund responsibility for funding.

On behalf of the City of Topeka, we thank you for your consideration of our position on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Braxton Copley, Deputy Director of Utilities  
City of Topeka

