



**Department of Public Works & Utilities**

*Testimony Provided to the*

**House Water and Environment**

January 29, 2018

*Joseph T. Pajor*

**Testimony in Opposition to HB 2513**

Honorable Committee Members:

The purpose of this testimony is to present concerns that the City of Wichita, Kansas has with HB 2513.

The first concern is that the money raised by this fee on one particular class of citizens might be used for any purpose that each session of the Legislature might identify. Indeed, recent history has shown this can happen, has happened, and is happening.

Second, even if the revenue realized were to go to the purposes identified in this bill, the citizens who are ratepayers of the largest public water supplier in Kansas would not realize any benefit from the permitted expenditures for at least a decade and a half because of the priority the Bill places on acquiring reservoir storage. Even then, the benefits would be very small if they were to occur at all.

Third, the principle of cost avoidance unwisely encourages us to utilize water from the Equus Beds aquifer over the transient evaporation prone Cheney Reservoir. This proposed fee is over 10 times the fee imposed by GMD 2 on water removed from the aquifer. The price signal this would send would not foster good integrated water resource management.

The City of Wichita appreciates the time and attention of the members of the House Water & Environment Committee and the opportunity to present the reasons for our opposition to House Bill 2513.

Prepared By:

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