

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

**To: Chairman Patton
Members of the House Judiciary Committee**

**From: Darci Meese, Manager Legal/Government Relations
WaterOne (Water District No. 1 Johnson County)**

Date: February 12th, 2019

RE: Neutral Testimony, HB 2178

WaterOne is the public water supply system in Johnson County, Kansas. Our service territory is approximately 270 square miles in size, containing 2600 miles of water transmission and distribution main. WaterOne crews frequently act in the “Excavator” capacity under the Kansas Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act when maintaining, installing, or repairing water mains.

WaterOne would respectfully urge the Committee to keep public safety at the forefront when considering responsibility for locating underground facilities. Any change to statute that would have the effect of decreasing the number of facilities being located or pass those obligations on to property owners who may not be aware of the obligations or have the expertise to perform the locates could pose an elevated danger to the public and excavators.

Perhaps this topic is appropriate for further examination and discussion by the interested parties before legislation is enacted to change the duty of care.

Darci Meese | WaterOne (Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, Kansas) | Government Affairs
Coordinator | 913-895-5516 direct | 913-579-9817 cell | dmeese@waterone.org