



**To: Chairman Peterson  
Members of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**From: Michael J. Armstrong, General Manager  
WaterOne (Water District No. 1 Johnson County)**

**Date: February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**RE: Proponent Testimony SB 20**

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Chairman and Committee, thank you for the opportunity to come before you to provide WaterOne's support for Senate Bill 20, designating a portion of Highway 69 as Senator Dennis Wilson Memorial Highway. WaterOne, the public water supply system in Johnson County, is governed by a 7-member elected Board and we were honored to have Senator Dennis Wilson as one of our Board members for 4 years.

Senator Wilson was elected to the WaterOne Board in 2015. Orientation meetings are held with all new Board members after their election. A standard question asked during orientation is "What made you run for the WaterOne Board?" Senator Wilson's answer to this question was simple and as a lifelong dedicated public servant, no surprise, he wanted to ensure that WaterOne was serving the public properly. Senator Wilson applied his usual level of inquiry with a healthy dose of skepticism as well as an interrogation of Senior Management to ensure WaterOne was meeting his expected commitment to the public. Fortunately, and maybe a bit to his disappointment, Senator Wilson quickly discovered that WaterOne was operating effectively and turned his attention to making WaterOne even better, ultimately becoming one of its biggest champions.

During his tenure on the Board, Senator Wilson served as Chairman of the Government & Community Relations Committee and as a member of the Administrative and Operations Committees. He was a proponent of the use of asset management principles included in the Asset Management Plan, financial support for on-going replacement of water distribution mains and prioritization of capital spending through the review of the Total Capital Improvement Plan. Senator Wilson scrutinized the construction of the new WaterOne Ozone treatment facility and ultimately supported the project. He also supported the Johnson Drive elevated tower, planning for the K-10/K-7 and second 199th and Lackman elevated towers, and began implementation of Advance Metering Infrastructure project.

Senator Wilson possessed the key qualities of true public servant. He had a strong desire to learn new things and always listened with an open mind. He served to represent his constituency and make sure the government was always acting in their best interests. He welcomed the engagement and input of the public he served. He supported the staff and mission of WaterOne wholly, to provide a safe, reliable, high-quality water supply with exceptional service and value. He was always careful to not put professional Staff on the spot during public meetings, and tense questions or critical feedback were always handled in a private setting. Management and staff are honored that Senator Wilson finished his career in public service with WaterOne.

As such, on behalf of WaterOne, we support the passage of Senate Bill 20.

Michael J. Armstrong | WaterOne (Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, Kansas) | General Manager |