

To: Senate Utilities Committee

**From: Darci Meese, Government Affairs Coordinator
Water District No. 1 Johnson County**

Date: February 28th, 2007

RE: Senate Bill 20 Compromise

On behalf of Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, Kansas, (“WaterOne”), I would like to thank you for your work on Senate Bill 20 this session. While WaterOne continues to oppose participation by water utilities in the Kansas One Call Center, we do appreciate the opportunity to voice our concerns. At this time, I thought it appropriate to comment on the bill as it is proposed to be amended because it is quite different from what we started with.

The tiered approach to membership with the One Call Center still poses problems in our opinion. Foremost, it is unacceptable for the Kansas One Call, a private corporation, to have the discretion to charge public water utilities a fee, to be determined outside of the statute, on a per referral basis. At the end of the day, water utilities will incur substantial costs from referral fees and the administrative cost of handling increased calls, many of which, at least in the case of WaterOne, will be irrelevant calls that do not require locates.

Senate Bill 20 remains a solution in search of a problem. Throughout this process, there has been very little evidence presented that there exists a problem with locating water and sewer utilities. The cost versus benefit of this bill must be considered and without some solid numbers from Kansas One Call and clear evidence that a real problem exists, that comparison is difficult for this Committee to make.

Thank you for your consideration of our continued opposition to SB 20.

Contact Information

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