



To: House Water & Environment Committee
From: David L. Pope, P.E.
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
Date: January 30, 2018
Re: Oppose HB 2513

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written comments on House Bill 2513.

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) represents the individual licensed engineers across the state. For over 100 years, KSPE has worked to promote engineering and public safety by delivering professional engineering services and encouraging licensure, in addition to advocating legislation and public policy for the betterment of human welfare and the industry.

Our association cares deeply about the proper management and protection of the state's water resources. This is critical for the future of our state and a staple of our mission. Personally, I have spent over 40 years working in the water management field in the capacity of a Water Resources Engineer and water administrator, including positions with KSU Cooperative Extension, the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District, and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, where I served as Chief Engineer-Director of the Division of Water Resources for many years. In addition, I have worked as a consulting engineer in the water management field in recent years.

We appreciate the committee discussing this important topic. However, our organization has concerns with the bill, as written.

KSPE requests the Legislature fund the State Water Plan, as statutorily intended. Sedimentation is an important issue, but let the Kansas Water Office and Kansas Water Authority do their job to review and recommend funding to implement the Water Plan, and address priorities as they change over time.

HB 2513 appears to have unintended consequences, such as encouraging groundwater use, instead of surface water use in those municipal and industrial systems with both sources.

This bill essentially doubles the fees on Municipal users from a total of 6 cents per 1000 gallons (3 cents for the State Water Plan Fund and 3 cents for the Clean Drinking Water Fund) to 11 cents per 1000 gallons, counting this additional 5 cents.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to voice our thoughts and concerns.

Respectfully,

David L. Pope, P.E .
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers