

To: House Water and Environment Committee

From: Erik Sartorius, Executive Director

Date: February 8, 2018

RE: Neutral Testimony on House Bill 2528

The League of Kansas Municipalities appreciates the opportunity to offer written testimony on House Bill 2528.

As we have shared with this committee, the League believes funding for water programs should not stray far from the long-established partnership between fees for water consumption, fees on various agricultural inputs, and appropriations from the state to fund the State Water Plan. The \$1.2 million appropriated by the legislature last year was certainly appreciated. With House Bill 2528, however, the state shows initiative in upholding its statutory responsibilities to the State Water Plan. Securing \$8 million from the Economic Development Initiative Fund may prove difficult with so many competing interests for those funds.

Our one concern with HB 2528 is how prescriptive it is in the allocation of the funds on an annual basis. We agree with the sentiment in the bill that significant issues exist with both water quantity and quality in Kansas. In HB 2528, the recognition that small systems are generally in need of technical assistance is appreciated. However, we would suggest that greater flexibility in where funds would be directed in any given year would help maximize the benefit of these funds.

The League of Kansas Municipalities believes House Bill 2528 admirably has the state step up and meet its funding obligation. We appreciate that this committee has over the past two years taken seriously the water issues of the state. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.