



**To: Chairman Thompson
Members of the Senate Utilities Committee**

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

Date: February 16th, 2021

RE: Proponent Testimony SB 172

Chairman and Committee, thank you for the opportunity to come before you to provide WaterOne's support for Senate Bill 172.

WaterOne is the public water supply system to 455,000 Kansans in Johnson County with a 272 square mile service territory. Within that service territory there are over 2,700 miles of water transmission and distribution mains, enough underground pipeline to stretch from New York to Los Angeles. In addition, the water supply system includes elevated storage tanks, underground reservoirs, pumping stations, pre-sedimentation facilities, wells, water intakes, diversion structures, and emergency interconnections with neighboring utilities. Both the Missouri and Kansas Rivers serve as water sources for the system, with treatment facilities located near each source. WaterOne uses a sophisticated SCADA system to conduct the water production and treatment process which is operated by trained professionals on a 24/7 basis.

WaterOne was subject to the 2018 Americas Water Infrastructure Act requiring a broad-based security assessment of the water supply system and water sources, evaluating not only intentional security threats, but also threats from natural disasters and unintentional acts. Security is at the forefront of WaterOne priorities. Many of our facilities are in remote or rural locations and protecting those facilities with physical security measures as well as continuous monitoring is important but can be difficult. WaterOne supports SB 172 as an additional tool to deter intrusion upon these critical facilities.

WaterOne would request a slight amendment to the description of water supply facilities included in the definition of "critical infrastructure" in the bill in section h(4). The bill currently includes "water intake structure, water treatment facility...", as critical infrastructure. It is respectfully requested that the existing language of provision h(4) be deleted and modified as follows: ***"water diversion, production, treatment, storage and distribution facilities and appurtenances, including, but not limited to, underground pipelines..."*** It is WaterOne's position that this broader description of critical infrastructure as it relates to water supply facilities is required to capture all the facilities that must be protected.

As such, on behalf of WaterOne, it is respectfully requested SB 172 be passed by the Committee as amended with the broader description of water supply facilities that are considered critical infrastructure.

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