

Mitch Mitchener

I am currently on the Board of Directors for the Leavenworth County Rural Water District #7.

However, I am not representing the Board here today.

I am speaking as a private citizen, a patron of the water district.

I've seen first hand why this bill is important to pass.

Our district started a project approximately a year and a half ago.

A company was awarded the job with no bids allowed.

5 of our 7 current board members were on the board when this decision was made.

Nobody has articulated even one example of how this was a benefit to the patrons.

The project is currently on hold, due to financial reasons.

The project is costing much more than the board members anticipated. Already over \$300,000 dollars.

If this bill had been in place 3 two years ago, this would have been avoided.

As the system is now, the patrons are totally powerless to direct how their money spent as long as the board can award jobs and projects to whoever they wish,

This bill also provides additional benefits to the patrons by requiring the contractor to be bonded and insured.

It just makes common sense to pass this bill, and it's in the publics best interest to pass this bill.

Thank you, for allowing me to voice my concerns.

House Local Government Committee

Date: 2-14-2024

Attachment #: 25