



**Moundridge, Kansas**  
*Where Community is a Way of Life*

City of Moundridge  
225 S Christian Ave ~ PO Box 636  
Moundridge, Ks 67107-0636

House Committee on Water  
2/12/23  
**City of Moundridge Opponent Testimony**  
**HB 2302**

Chairman Minnix and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony. As the City Administrator for the City of Moundridge, Kansas, I would like to express our support for House Bill 2302. We support the creation of a water technical assistance fund, and the water projects grant fund.

For many years my City has wanted to drill new water wells to help improve the quality of our water and protect the long term sustainability of our water supply. We started to gain some momentum in 2016 when a well siting study was done for our city. In 2018 we had a water supply analysis completed. In 2019 we spent over \$52,000, on test drilling.

Being able to fund these improvements has been a huge hurdle for us. We have applied for and been approved for Water Improvement programs, but we haven't had the matching funds to be able to move forward with our plans.

In 2021, when our community was awarded funds from the American Rescue Plan, we saw an opportunity to finally secure two new wells. We were allocated \$141,769 in two allocations for a total of \$283,538 in 2021 and 2022.

We worked with a drilling company and an engineer. We had to abandon three existing wells before we could drill two new 16-in production wells. We proceeded with the abandonment process utilizing our budgeted funds. Our quote from our drilling company was \$149,980 per well for drilling two new wells back on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We had over \$280,000 in ARPA funds available, so we were in a position to drill the wells and only have a short funding gap to cover to get our new wells.

Unfortunately, the company we were working with went through staff changes; COVID, and supply chain issues became a growing factor. Then a year later, on April 15, 2022, the quote to drill our two new wells jumped to \$222,991 per well. Almost \$446,000 to drill the wells that were going to cost \$300,000 a year prior.

Since then, we have worked through our engineers and approvals through KDHE to finally have clearance to drill those two new wells. I'm hopeful we don't get hit with price increases again. But the \$283,538 in ARPA funds we were counting on to help cover the costs are making up for a much smaller portion of this much needed project.

I've talked about our funding woes. That is something we are working to address. We are going to drill our wells soon. Our next focus will be funding the construction of the water lines from the wells and constructing a chlorine building. We just received an estimate for that and it was almost \$400,000.

Moundridge is a full-service community. We provide for build our own streets, and provide all services for Water, Gas, Electric and Wastewater. We have about 26 full-time employees and a budget of about \$9 million.

As a City Administrator, in a community of less than 2,000 residents, I can tell you a grant for a water project could be a life line when we are trying to take steps to secure a clean, safe, sustainable source of water for our community.

Having a fund to help community of our size, can have a far-reaching impact. The City of Moundridge provides water for our residents and businesses along with Marion County Rural Water District Number 4 which includes emergency water service to the towns of Goessel, Hillsboro and Peabody.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 2302.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Murray T. McGee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Murray T. McGee  
City Administrator  
City of Moundridge