

# RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 3

NEMAHA COUNTY

**905 US HIGHWAY 36**

**SENECA, KS 66538**

**(785) 336-3522**

Comments on HB 2456  
Before the House Energy & Utilities Committee  
January 24, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am manager of Rural Water District No. 3, Nemaha County. We provide over 220 million gallons of water annually to two cities and 1,033 families, businesses, and agricultural enterprises. Our system includes 600 miles of pipeline in Nemaha, Marshall and Brown counties of Kansas.

Our district was one of the earliest rural water systems to become a member of Kansas One Call, joining several years before it becoming mandatory in 2009.

We have concern about the election procedures used by Kansas One Call. In particular, we believe it is inappropriate to count non-responses as a vote in favor of the presented issue. This practice should not be allowed. Like all rural water districts, RWD No. 3 has a tremendous responsibility to provide safe water to our communities. The Kansas One Call system is an important part of that responsibility by helping to prevent damage to our facilities. Continuing to allow Kansas One Call to assume that a non-response is a vote for hand picked nominees trivializes the importance of selecting our representatives on the Board. More importantly, it inhibits proper representation of small and rural members. These small and rural members represent a very large geographic area and comprise a large percentage of membership in One Call. The makeup of the board should be allowed to reflect accordingly.

This country and state relies on the democratic process. We are not aware of any other organization or entity that would count non-responses as an affirmative vote. RWD No. 3 does not allow such practice in electing our Board Members.

Rural Water District No. 3, Nemaha County strongly encourages passage of HB 2456 so that Kansas One Call would be prohibited from counting non-responses as votes.

Thank you for your consideration,



Paul J. Strathman

Manager

RWD No. 3, Nemaha County

HOUSE ENERGY AND UTILITIES

DATE:

1.24.2012

ATTACHMENT

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