

TO: The Honorable Dan Kerschen, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Mays
On behalf of the Kansas Rural Water Association

RE: HB 2079 – An act concerning water district vehicle registration

DATE: March 9, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Kerschen and members of the committee. I am Doug Mays representing Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA). As you may recall from the presentations last Thursday, the KRWA has membership of 260 rural water districts and approximately 450 municipalities in Kansas. The association provides an incredible amount of technical assistance and training for water and wastewater systems throughout our state. Comments I make today on behalf of the Association are in support of HB 2079.

KRWA supports HB 2079. Rural water districts are quasi-municipal corporations, created by action of the county commission, pursuant to KSA 82a-612 et seq. The sole purpose of a rural water district is to provide water service, and in some cases wastewater service, to the land within its service territory.

HB 2079 would treat registered motor vehicles owned by a rural water district and used for utility purposes the same way as vehicles owned by other local governmental units that are similarly used for utility purposes. It is KRWA's experience is that the current practice for handling registration of RWD owned vehicles varies widely by the various county treasurers across the state. HB 2079 would provide a clear, consistent rule for registering these vehicles.

The KRWA respectfully suggests an amendment to the present language. The text on lines 35 and 36 appears to go beyond the intent to bring the water district vehicles up to the same level as other local governmental units. And for that reason, we suggest the bill be amending by dropping those lines.

The Kansas Rural Water Association respectfully requests that this committee favorably pass HB 2079. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to stand for questions.