

To: Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

From: Wendi Stark, Legislative Liaison

Date: March 6, 2024

RE: Neutral Testimony on HB 2525 – Written Testimony

We want to thank Chairman Peck and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2525.

Quality and quantity of drinking water is a concern for cities across the state. Our members support a clean and safe public water supply and the protection of public health and aquatic life. As such, our members have directed us, through our Statement of Municipal Policy, to support programs that encourage clean and safe public water.

The League of Kansas Municipalities supports remitting all moneys received by or for fees, charges, or penalties from the certification of operators of water supply systems and wastewater treatment facilities to the water program management fund.

This bill also sets fees for permits, monitoring, inspecting, and regulation of underground injection class I wells. The League is concerned with the amount of fees and the burden these fees may place on cities in Kansas, especially smaller cities. The League would like to see these fees reduced, possibly in half, and consideration given to cities with multiple underground injection class I wells or lower populations.

The League requests the Committee to consider, before passing legislation out of Committee, the amount of fees suggested in this bill for underground injection class I wells.