



**Before the
Senate Committee on Natural Resources**

**Written Testimony on HB2063
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office
March 19, 2015**

Chairman Powell and members of the Committee, I am Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2063.

In January 2015, the Kansas Water Authority approved changes to the final draft of the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas. A strategy identified in the Vision is to allow for the transfer of water supplies between basins where feasible and cost effective. Within that strategy, the Vision identifies the following action item:

- Eliminate statutory prohibition to use drinking water State Revolving Loan Funds (SRF) for water transfers and identify other state policies which unnecessarily limit transfers.

The changes to the definition of a “project” within the public water supply loan program as proposed within HB2063 would achieve the implementation of the above Vision action item.

The Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund (KPWSLF) is a state revolving loan fund (SRF) program which provides financial assistance in the form of loans to Kansas municipalities, at below market interest rates, for construction of public water supply infrastructure. Funds for the KPWSLF come from two sources – a federal capitalization grant from EPA which is established by the Safe Drinking Water Act, and proceeds from bonds issued by the Kansas Development Finance Authority on behalf of the KPWSLF.

While adoption of HB2063 would reduce a potential barrier to future water transfer projects, priority of award for SRF loans will remain for projects that address Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present information in support of HB2063.