



Testimony Submitted to the
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
February 13th, 2023

Joshua Svaty, on behalf of
Kansas Municipal Utilities

Testimony in Support of HB 2047

Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) is the statewide association representing Kansas cities and other public or not-for-profit agencies involved in the ownership and operation of municipal utilities across Kansas. Formed in 1928, KMU provides assistance and information to members with regard to legislative and regulatory issues, training and educational programs, and numerous other services toward the advancement of municipal utilities to achieve maximum benefits for the customer-owners served by our utilities. Our membership ranges in size from some of the largest utilities in the state such as those operated by the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities and the City of Wichita down to some of the smallest utility systems in the state serving fewer than 100 customers.

On behalf of the city-owned utilities across the state, KMU would like to express its support of HB 2047 as it amends K.S.A. 65-3326 to increase the amortization period for loans from the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund from a maximum of 20 years to 30 years.

Project applicants to the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund are using this program as one of the mechanisms for financing wastewater infrastructure projects in Kansas. Many of these projects are financing infrastructure with an expected life cycle well in excess of 30 years. Although there may be additional interest charges for a longer term, there may be benefits for communities to take advantage of a longer-term amortization structure. Our organization believes that it is important to provide communities with that flexibility in financing these long-term assets with terms most appropriate to their financial condition and needs.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of HB 2047, and we support this bill as it provides additional amortization flexibility to communities as they finance essential wastewater infrastructure projects through the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of HB 2047 and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.