



**TESTIMONY**  
**HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE**

**HB 2686**

By: Fred Jones, Water Resource Manager, City of Garden City, KS

On behalf of the City of Garden City

February 17, 2022

NEUTRAL

CITY COMMISSION

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MAYOR

ROY CESSNA

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Good morning, Chairman Highland and members of the committee. On behalf of the Garden City Commission and Administration, we thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2686.

The Legislative Policy for the City of Garden City defines our water policy platform accordingly:

“Garden City advocates for all of their citizens to have access to clean, safe and affordable water. We also recognize that water is a primary community and economic resource and jointly advocate for programs and policies that assist our communities in making the infrastructure investments necessary to provide access to clean, safe and affordable water. Garden City believes that our voice on municipal water resources and use decisions at the regional, state and federal level will benefit both the users of our municipal water supply systems and (through conservation and use strategies with other municipal, agricultural and industrial partners) the long-term social and economic health of Southwest Kansas.”

To that end, the City of Garden City is implementing a comprehensive water reuse plan through engagement with local stakeholders, regulatory agencies, and federal partners such as the Bureau of Reclamation. Feasibility studies of water reuse alternatives for the City of Garden City were submitted, reviewed, and accepted by the Bureau of Reclamation. Today, the City of Garden City is in the final stages of a water reuse marketing plan, funded in part by the Bureau of Reclamation, to determine the business plan for the City to develop infrastructure for large-scale water reuse. The purpose of this project is to improve water quantity and quality conditions in the portion of the aquifer used by the City public water supply. This project could result in the beneficial reuse of up to **six million gallons of water per day** when fully implemented.

The City of Garden City also promotes wise outdoor water use for its own operations and customers through investments in WaterSense™ technology. New infrastructure projects and public amenities have been constructed and continue to be implemented to improve



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the water system performance. The City of Garden City has also been nationally recognized by the Irrigation Association for our efforts to educate customers about their water use.

As such, the general themes of conservation and accountability present in the bill are ones consistent with our policy platform. The overall size of this bill and the many different administrative and technical changes, coupled with the relatively short time between the release of the bill and submission of testimony, create practical barriers for us to submit testimony with comments specific to each section or testimony that is clearly in support or opposition.

Given the importance of water to our local economy and the importance of conservation to our continued existence in Southwest Kansas, we feel it necessary to submit neutral testimony alerting this body to our adopted legislative platform on the topic and welcome the opportunity to be actively involved with the development of this legislation should it move forward.