

RURAL WATER DISTRICT #5
Butler County



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Testimony on House Bill 2493
To
House Committee on Local Government

February 14, 2024

Chairman Bergquist and Members of the Committee, I am Terry Brown, District Manager, Butler Rural Water #5. I am submitting comments in opposition to HB 2493 which concerns requiring rural water districts to publicly bid on some purchases when the costs exceed \$25,000.

Rural Water Districts are struggling with aging infrastructure, limited funds, and limited personnel due to needing skilled labor and finding funding to cover labor costs. The additional cost created by this bill will further cause districts to delay projects simply due to the costs of the process this bill will require.

District #5 has taken steps to find ways to improve infrastructure by improving brand reputation, reducing costs, and improving operational efficiency. The proposed House Bill 2493 will no doubt add additional fees by requiring bidding, engineering design, studies, additional staff to review and oversee. Taking away the district's ability to control what gets installed because of low bidder has not always been the best approach for district 5 causing rework and repairs more times than I can count.

I believe that each district has a board of directors for a reason and should allow them to do that job of making the decision that works best for them. I believe that legislators should be visiting with KRWA to find the needs of Rural Water Districts before imposing requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry B". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Terry Brown
District Manager, RWD #5