

Good morning members of the committee and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Steve Hoffine and I am a licensed professional geologist with over 25 years of experience. I work in the Environmental Global Practice at Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company in Kansas City and a born and raised Kansan, and lifelong resident. As groundwater becomes an ever more precious resource, it is critical that we take the appropriate actions to protect our environment and limited resources, as well as restore environmentally impacted groundwater back to re-usable conditions. For more than 20 years, the KDHE Dry Cleaner Program funding has provided the mechanism for conducting assessment, remediation, and monitoring of soil and groundwater that has been environmentally impacted by activities related to the Dry-Cleaning industry in Kansas. While the program has made significant strides in addressing known sites, there are a still significant number of sites that require assessment and remediation. HB 2575 provides necessary changes and funding to the Dry Cleaner Program to insure that KDHE's mission of protecting and restoring our very important groundwater resources by completing the necessary assessments, remediation, and monitoring in a timely manner can be sustained into the future. At the current funding levels, the program will be hindered in fulfilling its directive of protecting the citizens of Kansas whose drinking water sources may be impacted by past practices within the Dry-Cleaning industry. Additionally, as we have seen in the recent past with sites like Haysville, a should a new large site be discovered now, the Agency would not have enough resources to adequately address the issue, potentially leaving Kansans struggling with what to do for clean drinking water. Without the additional funding to allow KDHE to perform these services, communities and residents in Kansas who rely on groundwater for their primary source of drinking water, may not be adequately protected from the impact of environmental contamination due to a lack of resources necessary to identify and complete the assessments, remediation and monitoring. Furthermore, it should be noted that most of the money for this very important activity supports businesses and jobs for Kansas residents.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill.

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