



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 697		DATE: 3/22/2023	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JACQUE BARDGETT		PHONE NUMBER: 636-530-9392	
REPRESENTING: LITTLE BLUE VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2023 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOE TOUSIGNANT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: joewildlife@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 1:37 PM
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I have been on a Reorganized Common Sewer District Board for about 13 years, and my service is coming to an end. Thus, if passed, this bill will not benefit me. However, I want to assist finding my replacement on the board, and currently have another vacant position we need to fill. It has become increasing difficult to find people to volunteer their service and spend time away from work and their family to do an often-thankless job. Common sewer districts, water districts, electric co-ops, and other boards of directors offer some compensation to their members. This bill would simply apply the same rules to Reorganized Common Sewer Districts. It could prove very helpful to recruit board members if a small stipend was offered for their time serving on the Board. Our Board members are appointed by the County Commission, but many other boards are elected. Judging by all the board positions on the Cape Girardeau County April general election ballot with NO candidates filed, the difficulty in getting people to serve on public boards is not limited to our Sewer District here in Cape Girardeau County. I would appreciate your support of this Bill, it will help these Boards continue to serve the public. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT A. ROBBINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: scott@kkrylawfirm.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 9:45 AM
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I am an attorney in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Since 1996, my practice has focused upon working with citizens to form rural water and sewer districts. I donated legal services to help create the Missouri Association of Sewer Districts and to draft the legislation that ultimately was amended and passed by the Legislature allowing the formation of reorganized common sewer districts throughout the state. One of the sections that was removed when the bill originally passed was the provision for payment of Board members. This bill is needed as it has become increasingly difficult to find quality board members to serve without pay. The bill is similar to the payment provisions for water district board members contained in Section 247.060.5 RSMo. I can tell you that the caliber of board members for my water district clients has improved since this provision became law. I think the same would be true for sewer districts as well. The majority of the boards I represent go above and beyond the call of duty to serve. This attendance fee would help compensate them for just some of the time spent on behalf of their communities. I recommend that the bill be passed. I am unable to attend the hearing in person, but I am willing to discuss this with any of the committee members in detail at your convenience.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TOMMY HALFORD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cf714@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/21/2023 10:51 AM
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I fully support this as it is very very hard to find board members that are willing to volunteer their time and energy to local boards without some type of compensation. I feel that if this is passed it will make it easier to get good board members that are willing to serve their community. I have been on numerous boards and it was always difficult to find someone willing to serve and I feel this bill is needed to achieve that. Not everyone is willing such as I to volunteer.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TRENT FORD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-409-6812	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SEWER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 384			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65205
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/22/2023 11:54 PM
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