



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | | |
|--|-------------|---|------|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2000 | | DATE: 1/21/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Utilities | | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: DON DANIEL | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 12:00 AM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: KYNA IMAN | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-651-1185 |
| REPRESENTING: METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS SEWER DISTRICT | | TITLE: CONSULTANT |
| ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1483 | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65102 |
| EMAIL: kynaiman@earthlink.net | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 6:54 PM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ROBERT A. HEMBROCK | | PHONE NUMBER: 636-343-5090 |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NORTHEAST PUBLIC SEWER DISTRICT | | TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR |
| ADDRESS: 1041 GRAVOIS ROAD, 1041 GRAVOIS ROAD | | |
| CITY: FENTON | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 63026 |
| EMAIL: bobh@northeastsewer.org | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 2:12 PM |

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Currently, Sections 249.255 and 249.645 RSMo require a public sewer district to provide a notice by CERTIFIED MAIL prior to disconnecting the sewer service line or having a water utility disconnect the customer's water for unpaid sewer charges. The requirement of CERTIFIED MAIL is costly, burdensome and of no practical value compared to first class mail. Most of the certified mail are returned by the postal service without being picked up by the customer. The cost of this mailing is passed on to the customer. Revising the Statute to First Class Mail would save the people money and allow the sewer districts to gain some efficiency in operations.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 11:45 PM | |
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I believe in Certified-Mail.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-775-3261 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CONSUMERS COUNCIL OF MISSOURI | | TITLE: BOARD PRESIDENT | |
| ADDRESS: 2910 LEMP AVENUE | | | |
| CITY: ST. LOUIS | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 63118 |
| EMAIL: jmo.mott.oxford@gmail.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 9:53 PM | |

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Consumers Council of Missouri works to level the playing field for Missouri consumers. Building on a foundation laid in 1971, we educate consumers statewide and advocate for their collective interests through leadership and partnerships on utility rates, health care access, personal finance, and emerging issues. We believe that all Missourians should have access to essential utility services including heat, electricity, water, and sewer.

We oppose HB 2000 because access to utilities is a social determinant of health. Sewer systems play an important role in sanitation and disease prevention.

When a sewer customer is in arrears, this may be a signal that a household is in crisis. Sometimes mail is not opened promptly during a time of family stress. A certified letter increases the chances that a sewer system customer will know that their service is in danger of being discontinued.

In addition, mail delivery is not as reliable as it once was unfortunately. Sending mail certified is wise when it is important to communicate with the desired recipient.

We ask the committee to vote no on HB 2000.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 9:31 AM |

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I respectfully oppose HB 2000 because it elevates unpaid sewer charges to a tax-like super-priority lien while simultaneously authorizing utility shutoffs after only three months, creating a coercive enforcement scheme that disproportionately harms homeowners, renters, and low-income families.

Sewer service is a basic public health necessity, not a discretionary amenity, and granting sewer districts lien priority equal to state and county taxes—combined with water shutoff authority—invites abuse, due-process concerns, and cascading housing instability.

This bill removes meaningful procedural safeguards by allowing enforcement after notice by first-class mail only, lowers the threshold for service disconnection, and permits foreclosure-style remedies over modest delinquencies without requiring hardship review, payment plans, or independent oversight.

The result is an imbalance of power that favors districts at the expense of residents' constitutional property interests and public health.

Missouri can address legitimate collection issues without authorizing punitive mechanisms that risk homelessness, unsafe living conditions, and inequitable enforcement.

For these reasons, HB 2000 should not advance without substantial revision—or should be rejected outright.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SYLVIA YANCY | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 1/15/2026 4:17 PM | |

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

As a resident of Kansas City, Missouri, I am deeply concerned about the potential impacts of this bill on our communities, particularly vulnerable populations such as low-income families, the elderly, and those facing financial hardships. Certified mail provides a verifiable record of delivery, ensuring that customers receive critical notices about potential service disruptions. Switching to first-class mail removes this safeguard, increasing the risk of notices being lost, delayed, or undelivered due to postal errors or address issues. This could result in unfair disconnections without proper warning, leading to severe consequences like health hazards from lack of sanitation or water access.

Essential services like sewer and water are fundamental to public health and safety. Disconnecting them over unpaid bills—especially without robust notification—could exacerbate poverty cycles, force families into unsafe living conditions, and place unnecessary burdens on emergency services and social programs. In a state like Missouri, where many households already struggle with utility costs, this change feels punitive rather than practical. Instead of weakening protections, we should explore alternatives such as expanded payment assistance plans, income-based billing, or incentives for timely payments to address delinquency without endangering residents.

I urge you to vote against HB 1773 and maintain the current certified mail requirement to protect Missourians from avoidable hardships. Thank you for considering my testimony and for your commitment to fair and equitable policies.. This bill grants broad discretionary power to sewer districts and private water suppliers without establishing clear safeguards, oversight, or due-process protections. This opens the door to inconsistent enforcement, administrative errors, and potential misuse of authority. Debt collection should be handled through fair, transparent, and humane processes—not through actions that jeopardize public health and safety.

There are more constructive alternatives available, including payment plans, income-based billing assistance, hardship waivers, and improved communication with customers before arrears accumulate. These approaches maintain revenue stability for districts while protecting the well-being of residents.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose this bill and encourage the board to reject it in favor of solutions that uphold both fiscal responsibility and public health.