



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | |
|--|-------------|---|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2397 | | 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 | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JARED HANKINSON | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| REPRESENTING: MO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: 428 EAST CAPITOL AVE | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 12:00 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | | |
|--|-------------|---|----------------------|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2397 | | 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 | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JON HENSLEY | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-477-6859 | |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 125 E. HIGH ST., SUITE 200 | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 12:00 AM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2397 | | 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 | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MATT JESSEE | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI AMERICAN WATER | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: MO |
| EMAIL: | | ZIP: |
| ATTENDANCE: | | SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 12:00 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | | |
|--|-------------|---|------|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2397 | | DATE: 1/21/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Utilities | | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C AC "HONEST" ABE DIENOFF | | 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. | | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2397 | | DATE: 1/21/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Utilities | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: FRED DREILING | | PHONE NUMBER: 816-806-6335 |
| REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATION OF WATER DISTRICTS | | TITLE: LOBBYIST |
| ADDRESS: 1025 W 64TH TERR | | |
| CITY: KANSAS CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 64113 |
| EMAIL: freddreilingllc@gmail.com | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 6:18 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |
| The law works as is. | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|------|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2397 | | DATE: 1/21/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Utilities | | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: G. JOSEPH MCLINEY | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 1/19/2026 12:10 PM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |

Dear Committee Members:

HB2397 is an effort to allow large corporations an easier path to take over public utilities. My opinion about for profit private corporations acquiring not-for-profit public utilities is irrelevant.

I object to Missouri American Water's informational material they wish you to believe when making your decision. As you are aware, the bill attempts to change the vote from 2/3rds majority to 4/7ths majority for a public utility customers to vote to allow a private corporation to buy their utility (water or sewer).

The information they promoted reads:

“2/3 of voters is unrealistic for PWSDs to dissolve/sell to a public utility.”

- “Since 2002, no PWSD referendums have successfully met the 2/3 voter threshold.”

This is just in accurate. My family has worked with public entities since 1928. We know that public water supply districts, whether rural or city public water systems, routinely pass bond issues with more than 2/3rds majority (when 50.1% majority is required). Specifically, Platte CPWSD #1, Clay PWSD #9, and Clay PWSD #2, have all passed their revenue bonds recently with more than a 2/3rds majority. Last November, Marceline, Missouri (pop. 2,123) passed a water and sewer revenue bond for \$30,000,000 with more than a 75% majority.

In other words, if a PWSD finds value in a proposal, even when it potentially raise their user rates, like most revenue bonds can, they have little trouble passing the proposals by more than 2/3rds majority.

My assumptions is that no community since 2002 has approved the sale of a utility by a 2/3rds majority because NO community wants or needs their utility to be taken over by a private corporation.

My apologies I was unable to attend in person. I would be happy to make myself available anytime, but this Wednesday, I have a conflict and was only made aware of this bill a few days ago.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2397 | | DATE: 1/21/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Utilities | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | |
| 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 9:37 AM |

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

I respectfully oppose HB 2397 because it materially lowers the democratic and procedural safeguards required to dissolve a public water supply district—a core public utility tied directly to health, safety, and property rights.

By allowing a board of directors to unilaterally reduce the voter approval threshold from two-thirds to four-sevenths, this bill weakens long-standing protections against forced dissolution, asset sales, and consolidation that may not reflect the will or best interests of ratepayers. Water districts are not private corporations; they are public entities created by voters, funded by taxpayers, and essential to community stability.

Any dissolution process should require the highest level of transparency, independent scrutiny, and robust voter consent—not discretionary lowering of thresholds by the very board that may benefit from the transaction.

HB 2397 shifts power away from residents and toward institutional actors, creating unnecessary risk of coercive consolidation, diminished local control, and loss of accountability.

For these reasons, the bill should not advance in its current form.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | | |
|--|-------------|---|----------------------|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2397 | | DATE: 1/21/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Utilities | | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: TIMOTHY GREEN | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-420-5318 | |
| REPRESENTING: ST CHARLES PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT #2 | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 3426 RIVERCHASE PARKWAY | | | |
| CITY: ST. CHARLES | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 63301 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 12:00 AM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | | |
|--|-------------|---|----------------------|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 2397 | | DATE: 1/21/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Utilities | | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: TRENT WATSON | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-606-0141 | |
| REPRESENTING: MO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2221 | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65102 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 1/21/2026 12:00 AM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |