



Representative Shane Wilkin
91st House District

Thank you Chairman Wilson Vice-chair McColley and Ranking member Williams, To give you an example why this common sense legislation is needed. The OWDA approved a loan with a village in my district several years ago. This community was projected to grow and needed to prepare the infrastructure for the expected population growth. However, projected trends of growth overestimated the scope of the water and wastewater treatment plant built for the village and has caused a financial situation the community cannot afford. The county has now taken responsibility for the loan and has paid interest with general funds.

Currently the ODWA is allowed to make loans and grants to persons and governmental agencies, but only for the acquisition or construction of facilities not for the refinancing. And due to this the OWDA bonding authority is similarly limited.

This legislation which has the support of the CCAO and the OWDA authorizes the OWDA to make loans and grants to persons and government agencies for the refinancing of certain public water and waste water infrastructure projects, provides for the financing and refinancing of loans made for those projects and to adopt rules for governing the financing and refinancing of loans to government agencies, and authorizes the OWDA to issue water development revenue bonds and notes for the purpose of paying any part of refinancing one or more projects.

We all hear that government should be run like we run our households and this bill does just that.

In short this bill will simply allow those entities to evaluate the interest rates they are paying for a past project and if feasible, refinance that loan.

This is very simple, common sense legislation that saves taxpayer dollars, we hope to have you support. Thank you and I will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.