

**Nemaha Brown Watershed Joint District No. 7
Wetmore, Kansas**

Testimony on HB 2061

March 17,2015

Chairman Love and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee

My name is David Zeit, Board member of the Nemaha Brown Watershed Joint District No. 7. The watershed board supports HB 2061.

The Nemaha Brown Watershed presently has one site on hold, due only to the failure of being able to obtain an easement. At the time just prior to the ruling of the US Army Corp of Engineers on needing to obtain a Third Party easement holder, our engineering and mitigation segments were completed, with a verbal agreement from our mitigation services and the US Army Corp of Engineers. After consulting with our engineering services, we had an estimate of upwards to \$280,000 - \$300,000 per site for a third party easement holder. This amount would be for the life of the dam site of approximately 50 years. This is just for this ONE site only. We have many more sites that we could be building, with the appropriate funding.

The third party easement fee would have to be funded by taxing our county residents within our district. This would cause an unnecessary hardship for our taxpayers. The watershed should not burden it's taxpayers with this expense.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB2061.

Respectfully,

David Zeit