

**WET WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED
JOINT DISTRICT NO. 58**

**P. O. Box 207 – 300 West Highway 4
LaCrosse, Kansas 67548
Telephone: 785-222-2812
FAX: 785-222-2752
Office: 785-222-2812**

March 2015

Testimony on HB 2061

Senate Ag Committee:

On behalf of the Wet Walnut Creek WJD #58 I would like to address an issue that is of the upmost importance to all Watershed Districts in the state of Kansas. The Wet Walnut Creek Watershed District was established in 1963 covering parts of 6 counties in Western Kansas. During that time we have constructed 54 flood retarding structures with 45 additional sites to construct within our general plan.

The idea to form the Wet Walnut Creek Watershed District in Western Kansas came about after the disastrous floods of 1959. From that time forward the Watershed District has taken its job of protecting the residents and land along the Walnut Creek very seriously.

Since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has unjustly placed the Third Party Conservation Easement restriction on Watershed Districts in Kansas, we feel that HB 2061 is a step in the right direction to solving our issues for securing 404 permits.

The Wet Walnut Creek Watershed District is in favor of HB 2061. The Wet Walnut Creek Watershed Board of Directors is willing and able to work with the Division of Conservation if they are allowed to hold Third Party Conservation Easements. We feel that it would be of greater benefit to our landowners and taxpayers if we were allowed to work with the Division of Conservation, as opposed to working with a disinterested third party.

We would like to thank the Senate Ag Committee for looking into this matter.

We would entertain any questions the committee may have through Herb Graves our SAKW Executive Director.

Sincerely;

Jeremiah Hobbs
Wet Walnut Creek WJD Manager
LaCrosse, Ks

Wet Walnut Creek Board of Directors
LaCrosse, Ks