

Testimony Provided to the
Committee on Natural Resources - March 11, 2015

Michael Talboy and Stephen R. Hoffine, Burns and McDonnell

In Support to H.B. 2192

Over the past decade, the levels of funding for various Environmental programs at the Kansas Department of Health & Environment has been diminishing while the number of sites that require investigation and/or remediation have not. Recent transfer of sites from EPA Region VII control to KDHE control has also put a strain on the already overburdened programs. Finally, events such as the recent discovery of the contamination to the drinking water supply for hundreds of residents in Wichita, Kansas, and other legacy costs, highlight the limits facing the KDHE personnel, as budgets are insufficient to allow adequate investigation of all the potential sites that exist.

Burns & McDonnell supports passage of House Bill #2192 for the Environmental Stewardship Fund as a means to supply the agency with the funding necessary to adequately address potential issues to human health and environment. This Fund will help to supply adequate funds to the various programs and ensure that appropriate resources can be applied as needed to protect the public in Kansas. Additionally, funding of the programs will help to support job growth by allowing work to be completed at more sites that need to be addressed by the agency.