

Vosburgh Farms

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Chairman Powell and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on House Bill 2059 before you today. I am Justin Vosburgh, a fifth generation farmer who lives on and farms irrigated land in Stafford County. I am also Stafford County Farm Bureau board president representing several hundred farmers in our area. I stand before you in support of augmentation.

Without augmentation, I have two irrigated quarters that are at risk to be shut down under one of the model runs by the Division of Water Resources. I have several other irrigation wells that could have significant reductions to their water rights. That would be an extreme hardship on my farm. It will lead to a very significant annual decline in production and revenue from this land. Multiply this across my neighbors operations and across Stafford County whose annual agricultural production is 197 million dollars and this spells disaster for our livelihoods and our communities. It means significant income and property tax value decreases which in turn leads to less tax revenue going to Topeka.

Augmentation is one of the possible solutions; we need augmentation put in statute so the Chief engineer's toolbox has another option if impairment is found. Augmentation is good for everyone in the Rattlesnake creek basin.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and I'd be glad to answer questions.

Justin K. Vosburgh