

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Senator Powell, Chairman

From: Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: March 18, 2015

Re: Testimony SB 275- An act concerning water; relating to Water Conservation Areas

Chairman Powell and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide support of SB 275. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 40,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

Grassroots efforts are fundamental to Kansas Farm Bureau; consequently we support the concepts in this bill for individuals to bring forward water conservation strategies on a voluntary basis within a defined area, timeframe and with established goals that give due consideration to previous conservation practices while remaining consistent with current state law.

KFB policy supports Groundwater Management Districts (GMD) and their local governance, powers and authority. When a water conservation area (WCA) overlaps with a GMD, enhanced communication and collaboration should be encouraged by all parties involved to help implement new initiatives without violating long standing conservation efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I'd be glad to take questions at the appropriate time.

Kansas Farm Bureau represents grassroots agriculture. Established in 1919, this non-profit advocacy organization supports farm families who earn their living in a changing industry