



**Before the
Senate Committee on Natural Resources**

**Testimony on SB275
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office
March 18, 2015**

Chairman Powell and members of the Committee, I am Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 275. The bill creates an additional mechanism to conserve our water resources.

As you know, the Kansas Water Vision Team has spent considerable time in the past year receiving input regarding our water resources. Much of our effort has focused on the Ogallala - High Plains Aquifer. We have received comments from stakeholders, both in and outside of groundwater management district boundaries, who are interested in implementing conservation efforts. Water Conservation Areas (WCA) will provide a mechanism to address conservation interests where a Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) or Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area (ICUGA) is not preferred or possible.

Fundamentally, SB275 will allow one or more water right holders that agree, by consensus, to implement a water use reduction plan while being afforded the water use flexibilities provided under state law or regulation. Additionally, SB275 provides a mechanism to ensure a WCA is not in conflict with a GMD management plan that may or may not include a LEMA.

The Water Vision Team and Kansas State University is currently assisting the 14 Regional Goal Leadership Teams in conducting 26 public meetings across the state in an effort to establish regional water supply goals. These goals will ultimately be adopted by the Kansas Water Authority and incorporated into the *Long Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas*. Implementation of these goals will be accomplished by a myriad of strategies contained in the Vision. Discussion is already occurring at these regional meetings regarding how LEMAs or WCAs can be utilized, in concert with water conservation education, technology and crop varieties, to conserve and extend the life of the Ogallala Aquifer

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of SB275. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.