

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

From: Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: January 20, 2016

Re: Testimony SB 329 - An act concerning water; relating to multi-year flex accounts

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Chairman Powell and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 329. 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.

Kansas Farm Bureau policy supports the concept of multi-year flex accounts (MYFA) when responsibly implemented so as to protect private property rights, avoid impairing existing water rights and having no long-term negative impacts on the source of supply.

SB 329 is an attempt to very specifically provide for simultaneous modification of both the base water right and any associated MYFA term permit place of use. Currently there are no provisions for term permit place of use changes and we see no need for wholesale expansion of this authority, at this time, just this unique situation dealing with MYFA term permits.

We encourage the committee to vote favorably on SB 329 which will help alleviate the loss of opportunities to convert to more efficient irrigation systems by water right holders participating in the MYFA program.

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*