

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

From: Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: March 11, 2016

**Re: Testimony SB 491- An act concerning water; relating to the division of water resources;
groundwater**

Chairman Powell and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on SB 491. 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.

SB 491 encompasses numerous and important aspects of our states water law, some of which KFB policy supports but much of which our policy doesn't directly address. KFB has been and is committed to remaining diligently involved in ongoing discussions with the Department and stakeholders to work out the details of the topics included in SB 491.

Consequently, while our policy very explicitly supports the Groundwater Management District Act and the Chief Engineer remaining a classified position, we are not yet in a position to weigh in on the other very important aspects of the bill and would encourage the committee to allow the productive and ongoing stakeholder discussions to continue and not move the bill this session.

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