



2627 KFB Plaza, Manhattan, Kansas 66503-8508 • 785-587-6000 • Fax 785-587-6914 • www.kfb.org

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Representative Ken Rahjes, Chair

From: Kent Askren, Public Policy Director for Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: February 5, 2025

Re: Written testimony providing qualified support of HB 2111

Chairman Rahjes and members of the committee, on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in qualified support of HB 2111. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau associations.

KFB has provided support for a Kansas Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) on numerous occasions dating back to 2007 and since. The Kansas CREP is a voluntary, incentive-based water right buyout program targeted to some of our most environmentally sensitive land and water decline areas.

We have national policy supporting the continuation of CREP and believe it is a good fit for Kansas, especially if we can get national program adjustments to offer participants the option to continue dryland production on enrolled land. Our members have sought this option for years and we believe it potentially would bring greater interest in the CREP program and its environmental benefits to Kansas.

We are offering quantified support because we are unsure why the bill proposes striking language in *Section 1(i)(A) currently prohibiting enrollment of land in CREP owned by state or federal entities*. There may be good reasons but at the very least, it seems the bill should prioritize privately held land/water rights for enrollment before offers to government entities.

That said, we believe CREP is a good tool for targeted, voluntary, incentive-based water right retirements funded to a large degree by the federal government and offer our qualified support for the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony with qualified support for HB 2111.