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SCOTT HILL
70TH DISTRICT

February 14, 2025

Testimony in Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

HB 2153

Dear Chairman Rahjes and committee members

Most of our work as legislators involves increasing the restrictions on or limiting the abilities of citizens of Kansas to proceed with their normal life.

Often times in an attempt to protect our fellow Kansans from harm we have unintended consequences that affect the livelihood of others. If we adhere to strict constitutional principles that honor the ability to live, act, and work in an environment free of unnecessary government intervention we should always be looking for opportunities to reduce instead of increase the restrictions on law abiding citizens.

HB 2153 reduces the restrictions both in place and proposed for the future for harmless irrigation ponds. These ponds are the life blood for farmers that depend on irrigation in the Eastern one third of Kansas.

Three Important points:

- 1) These small irrigation ponds (under 30 feet) have no documented catastrophic failures.
- 2) Dams constructed illegally are already unknown to the water commissioner, so law abiding irrigators would be subject to regulation unless this legislation is approved.
- 3) These ponds have a threefold positive impact for the environment. They reduce silt load in streams, they prevent water erosion, and they improve the irrigated plant health to aid in retention of soil while increasing the agricultural production.

This straightforward legislation that removes irrigation ponds from regulation is good for farmers, good for the environment, and good for Kansas. Please support reducing the regulatory impact on these irrigators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Hill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Hill, PhD