



Since 1894

Date: March 6, 2025

To: House Committee on Water
Rep. Jim Minnix, Chair

From: Jackie Garagiola, Associate Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **SB 58 AN ACT concerning water; relating to multi-year flex accounts; modifying the requirements for and authorized allocations from such accounts.**

Position: Proponent, In-Person

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing nearly 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Thank you, Chairman Minnix and members of the Committee, for allowing the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) the opportunity to share our support for SB 58 that would amend the current multi-year flex account statute.

KLA policy supports a multi-year allocation system for water permits. While K.S.A. 82a-736 only applies to irrigation water rights, and is not available to stockwater rights, KLA supports the concept for the benefit of our members who are engaged in irrigated grain and forage production.

KLA believes the changes contained in SB 58 will improve the program. For instance, the move away from historical water use to determine the base allocation is a positive change. Reliance on historical water use to set base allocations for water use programs can lead to adverse behavior as some water right owners will make a conscious effort not to conserve water in anticipation of such a policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit KLA's views to the Committee. KLA asks the Committee to approve SB 58 favorably for passage.