KANSAS FARM BUREAU®
The Voice of Agriculture®

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To: House Committee on Water, Representative Minnix, Chair

From: Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: March 6, 2025

Re: Written testimony in support of SB 58 as amended-concerning water; multi-year flex accounts

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Chairman Minnix and members of the Committee, on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 58. 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 policy supports the concepts of water right use flexibility that align with the basic principles of Kansas water law. Our members have benefited from using multi-year flex accounts (MYFA) to help save crops in drought years and to promote innovative production strategies to maximize the value of their water usage.

Now that we have a few years of implementation of MYFA to assess, the proposed amendments in SB 58 both simplify calculations for enrollment by participants into a MYFA and possibly more importantly, helps to ensure that MYFA utilization does exactly what it was originally intended, provide flexibility with average, or less water usage, over the long term.

Protection of existing water rights in alignment with our states first in time/first in right water law must be adhered to when offering the flexibilities of MYFA. We are confident that amendments made by the Senate striking original bill language in Section 1(i) pertaining to authority given the chief engineer to require additional measuring devices will be taken care of once rules and regulations are adopted. It is imperative that latitude given to exceed annual allocations, while maintaining average or less usage, be closely monitored.

Thank you for allowing us to provide written testimony in support and we ask that you favorably pass out SB 58 as amended.

House Water Committee
March 6th,2025
Attachment 5-1