

**Testimony on HB 2096, Coordinated Water Data Repository System
to
The House Vision 2020 Committee**

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Chairman Sloan and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2096. The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (KDA/DOC) is responsible for implementation of many natural resource protection programs. The KDA/DOC administers the Riparian and Wetland Protection Program which provides State Water Plan funding for best management practices to reduce soil losses from streambanks that transport downstream adding to sedimentation of water supply impoundments, federal reservoirs and/or impact total maximum daily loads. In addition, the KDA/DOC implements the Multipurpose Small Lakes Program that provides financial assistance to construct dams that have flood control and water supply and/or recreation.

The bill proposes to allow an increased cost-sharing rate for targeted state priority watersheds that drain to reservoirs and lakes that provide public water supply. Sedimentation of these type reservoirs is a significant issue today and will compound in the future. Installation of these practices provides localized protection for landowners, however, the more significant benefit is the receiving water bodies. Producers many times are unable to bear the costs of installation and decide the loss of acreage is the least cost alternative. The State Water Plan has prioritized watershed approached stream restoration above high priority waters of the state. This proposed change will provide the necessary tools to gain voluntary participation.

Section 4 of the bill proposes changes to the Multipurpose Small Lakes Program Act to make one fundamental change. The current law requires flood control and either water supply, recreation or both. The modification would allow a new applicant to contain any two of the options. This change will allow small communities to develop a structure for water supply and recreation without flood control. Typically flood control components require significant increases in dam height and overall construction costs to detain designed flood events. This storage occurs between the principal spillway elevation and the emergency spillway elevation. The KDA/DOC supports the flexibility this provides and the opportunity to provide a lesser cost alternative if flood protection is not a component of the project goals.

Chairman Sloan and members of your committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Committee today. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.