



**Testimony to the Senate Agriculture Committee
by Patrick T. Lehman, Executive Director
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
SB 357
February 8, 2012**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Pat Lehman, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.

KACD is a voluntary, nongovernmental, nonprofit organization that was established in 1944. Our members are the conservation districts located in the state's 105 counties. Each district has five elected supervisors.

At KACD'S annual convention in November, the members voted unanimously to support a measure requiring conservation districts to provide recommendations to county commissioners on methods to eliminate or reduce soil erosion caused by wind storms. We recognize that wind and dust storms are destructive to the natural resources of Kansas and the health and well-being of its citizens, and we believe that landowners have a responsibility to take actions to prevent and reduce the amount of soil erosion caused by those storms.

County conservation districts' duties and authorities under Kansas statute provide for the comprehensive planning and guidance to landowners and other entities to prevent soil erosion by wind and other means, and the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts encourages conservation districts to work closely with county commissioners to resolve natural resource concerns such as water and wind erosion.

I urge you to give favorable consideration to SB 357.

Thank you and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.