

**NORTHWEST KANSAS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 4**

**STATEMENT OF ISSUE - TESTIMONY**

**TO: Senator Ostmeyer, Senate Natural Resources Committee**

**February 2, 2012**

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**ISSUE: SB 310 - Authorizing LEMAs**

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Providing a new authority and process for Local Enhanced Management Areas.

**BACKGROUND:**

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In developing a local enhanced management plan for their area, the stakeholders of High Priority Area (HPA) SD-6 within the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 were faced with the intensive groundwater use control area (IGUCA) process necessary to implement their locally developed proposal. They concluded there was too much risk involved in triggering the IGUCA process, and asked GMD 4 to draft a new process that had less risk. GMD 4 has co-developed this bill with input from others including: Kansas Department of Agriculture (including the division of water resources); all five Kansas GMDs; the Kansas Farm Bureau; Kansas Livestock Association; and Kansas Feed and Grain Association. The result is SB 310.

**CONCERNS & COMMENTS:**

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1. SB 310 provides locals with an opportunity to develop and implement local enhanced management plans that are consistent with GMD management programs.
2. The bill retains sufficient state oversight to insure effective plans are being proposed, and that all the elements of the locally proposed plans are legal and consistent with state law.
3. All the processes of the current IGUCA statutes remain in effect. This bill simply provides an additional, more locally friendly process, when the stated conditions exist.
4. We feel the bill provides positive incentives for locals to begin developing enhanced management plans sooner rather than later.

5. SB 310 does not guarantee the locals will get everything or anything they might propose as an enhanced management proposal, but it does insure they will not get anything they don't want.
6. This is the framework of a statutory change requested by the stakeholders of HPA SD-6 within the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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- 1) We support SB 310 as introduced and urge its passage as soon as possible.

*Wayne A. Bossert*

This testimony was approved by the GMD 4 board of directors on January, 19, 2012.

Signed: Wayne A. Bossert, GMD 4 Manager