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**MEMORADUM**

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
From: David Wiese, Assistant Revisor  
Date: February 21, 2012  
Re: Senate Bill 435, concerning CREP

Senate Bill 435 establishes a conservation reserve enhancement program or CREP. The CREP would be a joint state and federal program and would be administered for the state by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The purposes of the CREP are to reduce withdrawal demands on the high plains aquifer, improve water quality, protect public water supplies and enhance wildlife habitat. The program provides for the voluntary retirement of water rights within in the CREP area. The Kansas Department of Agriculture is authorized to adopt rules and regulations for the implementation and administration of the CREP. The criteria for the CREP are provided in subsection (d) of section 1 of the bill.

Section 2 of the bill requires the Kansas Department of Agriculture to submit an annual CREP report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. The required contents of such annual report are also listed in section 2.