

February 19, 2014

The Honorable Sharon Schwartz, Chairperson
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Statehouse, Room 149-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Schwartz:

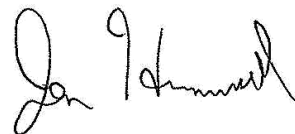
SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2654 by House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2654 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2654 would authorize the Conservation Division of the Kansas Department of Agriculture to establish a fee fund for conservation projects, to hold easements and real property in order to complete restoration projects, and assume responsibility for the long-term protection of stream and wetland sites. The bill would also authorize the Conservation Division to serve as the required third party entity for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) permits issued to local governments. The COE permit language is included in Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act.

The Department of Agriculture indicates the passage of HB 2654 would have no fiscal effect for either FY 2014 or FY 2015. When the Department of Agriculture establishes a fee fund, the fee revenue covers the costs to create and administer the Conservation Program's mitigation and restoration projects. The League of Kansas Municipalities indicates that it is not possible to estimate the fiscal effect this bill would have on Kansas cities.

Sincerely,



Jon Hummell,
Interim Director of the Budget

cc: Mark Heim, Agriculture
Larry Baer, League of Municipalities