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To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
Senator Larry Powell, Chairman

From: Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President

Re: **Testimony supporting SB 36, amending multi-year flex accounts statutes**

Date: January 28, 2015

*The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,000 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf and stocker production, cattle feeding, dairy production, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.*

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) is submitting this statement in support of Senate Bill 36, a bill allowing a water user, who is enrolled in a "multi-year flex account", to carry over a limited amount of groundwater usage into a subsequent multi-year flex account term permit.

For several years KLA members have reaffirmed a policy supporting state legislation and/or regulation that gives water users a multi-year water allocation with flexibility in the volume of water put to beneficial use each year. We supported SB 272, which passed during the 2012 Kansas Legislative Session and viewed it as a meaningful change to the statutes governing the multi-year flex account term permits.

Likewise, the proposed changes to this law is welcomed by our members as it provides additional flexibility and an added incentive for conservation. If a water user knows they will have the opportunity to carry over a limited volume of unused water during their five year term permit, they may be more inclined to cut back their water usage and save it for a subsequent five year flex account.

We applaud the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Governor's administration for their continued efforts in seeking changes that give water users additional tools for managing the water resource in a manner that is responsive to weather patterns, economic factors and conservation goals.

In summary, SB 36 is an improvement to the multi-year flex account law that provides conservation benefits and added flexibility. We urge the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to give it favorable consideration.