

written only

**WET WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED
JOINT DISTRICT NO. 58**

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Testimony on SB 118

Senate Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the Wet Walnut Creek WJD #58 I would like to address an issue that is of the upmost importance to all Watershed Districts in the state of Kansas. The Wet Walnut Creek Watershed District was established in 1963 covering parts of 6 counties in Western Kansas. During that time we have constructed 54 flood retarding structures with 45 additional sites to construct within our general plan.

The idea to form the Wet Walnut Creek Watershed District in Western Kansas came about after the disastrous floods of 1959. From that time forward the Watershed District has taken its job of protecting the residents and land along the Walnut Creek very seriously.

Since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has unjustly placed the Third Party Conservation Easement restriction on Watershed Districts in Kansas, we feel that SB 118 is a step in the right direction to solving our issues for securing 404 permits.

Let it be known that we are in favor of SB 118. The Wet Walnut Creek Watershed Board of Directors is willing and able to work with the Division of Conservation if they are allowed to hold Third Party Conservation Easements. We feel that it would be of greater benefit to our landowners and taxpayers if we were allowed to work with the Division of Conservation, as opposed to working with a disinterested third party.

We would like to thank the Senate Natural Resource Committee for looking into this matter.

We would entertain any questions the committee may have through Herb Graves our SAKW Executive Director.

Sincerely;

Jeremiah Hobbs
Wet Walnut Creek WJD Manager
LaCrosse, Ks

Wet Walnut Creek Board of Directors
LaCrosse, Ks