



Southwest Kansas
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Proponent Testimony on SB330
Submitted to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources
On behalf of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
By Mark Rude, Executive Director
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Chairman Powell and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify as a proponent of SB330 provision for Kansas participation in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 (GMD3) has committed significant cash and in-kind resources to the state match requirement in the on-going Kansas Upper Arkansas River CREP.

Significant acres have been transitioned from irrigation to temporary idle for 15 years of cover and then dry land after that. There have been challenges and learning curves associated with the practical considerations and implementation of the program in the highly erodible sandy soils of the current Kansas CREP, but the program is an effective option for incentivizing water right owners to relinquish farm non-domestic water rights.

One of the challenges of the current CREP has been the year-to-year authorization of the program during the annual budget process. A statutorily enacted program as envisioned by SB 330 will help landowners and other partners develop a comfort with the state support for the program and could ensure a more solid framework for the program to address surface water concerns in the future.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 330 and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.