



**House Committee on Agriculture
Written Testimony on House Resolution No. 6018
Earl Lewis, Acting Director
March 21, 2019**

Chairman Highland and members of the committee, my name is Earl Lewis and I am the Acting Director of the Kansas Water Office. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HR 6018.

House Resolution 6018 requests the assistance of the federal government through the Bureau of Reclamation to address water quality issues in the Upper Arkansas River Basin. While the primary cause of the deteriorating water quality is in Colorado, the impacts extend well into Kansas. Our citizens, and particularly our local water supply providers, continue to face an increasing issue and looming significant costs.

The Bureau of Reclamation completed a high level review of this issue in Kansas in 2015. The request in the resolution seeks to build on this study and move toward positive action to find workable, cost effective solutions to the issue.

The resolution, if adopted would request the Kansas Water Office to “work with Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3, and other state and local partners in Kansas and Colorado as well as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to address the concerns of water quality and availability regarding the contamination of the Arkansas River Basin.” We stand ready to carry out this request.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony in favor of this resolution.