

H B 2686 Opponent Testimony  
Provided to: The House Water Committee  
From: The Kansas Water Congress  
Feb. 15, 2022

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the House Water Committee. I am David Brenn, founder and President of the Kansas Water Congress; A non-for profit founded in 2002.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H B 2686.

Due to the rapid timeline of the Bill (fast track); the full consideration of the Bill, let alone the large-scale changes and impacts it may have (good or bad) to the state or certain areas of the state as it currently reads has been difficult if not impossible.

The Kansas Water Congress has since its beginning represented and supported that local governance play a critical and pivotal role in good Water Policy for the State. Moving toward a more centralized governance and control is very questionable.

As the Bill currently reads there are several other areas of concern that lack clarity:

- Role and function of a new State agency planner.
- Applies a property right tax that goes to an expanded State fund.
- Nomination process and number of members to Ground Water Management District Boards.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this brief testimony.