



Kansas Agricultural Alliance

816 SW Tyler Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612, 785.234.0463

To: House Committee on Water
Representative Ron Highland, Chair

From: Kansas Agricultural Alliance
Brandi Miller, President

Date: February 17, 2022

RE: **Opponent Testimony on House Bill 2686**

Chairman Highland and members of the Committee, the Kansas Agricultural Alliance (KAA) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to HB 2686. The Kansas Agricultural Alliance (KAA) is composed of statewide farm, livestock, commodity, cooperative, agri-business and agri-service organizations. KAA's mission is to promote the general welfare of agriculture and rural communities within Kansas and the U.S., with special emphasis upon legislative activities affecting agriculture, rural areas, and cooperative services. The KAA requires unanimous consent to weigh-in collectively on a bill. Rarely is legislation presented that has such a potential impact across the entire industry.

Water is vital to all Kansas, particularly those engaged in producing the state's food, fuel, and fiber. Kansas has been well served by a multi-agency approach to water management. The KAA believes no single agency should have authority over both water quantity and water quality.

We appreciate the work of the committee and recognize that sound water policy and its implementation benefit all Kansans, especially our membership, but HB 2686 would create a single water and environment agency which draws upon too much power, guided by a political appointment that will change with every administration. This uncertainty will damage our members ability to manage their businesses and plan for future investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to HB 2686 and we hope the committee will not pass the bill as offered.

