

Testimony to Kansas House Water Committee From Dr. Les K. Lampe

Bill Number: House Bill No. 2279

Testimony Position: Proponent

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Chair Minnix and members of the House Water Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 2279.

By way of introduction, I am a lifelong resident of Kansas and currently reside in the City of Shawnee. My entire professional career was as a professional engineer (licensed in six states, including Kansas) completing water supply evaluations for many clients. My most notable international clients were the Water Corporation of Western Australia, the Singapore Public Utilities Board, and the Hong Kong Water Supplies Department. Domestically my most significant project was as project manager for the Study of Long-Term Augmentation Options for the Water Supply of the Colorado River System, which was completed in March 2008. Within Kansas, I was the project manager for an evaluation of the coordinated operation of Milford, Tuttle Creek, and Perry Reservoirs to assure water supplies of the Kansas River. This project led to passage of the Kansas Water Assurance Program Act (K.S.A. 82a-1330 et seq) in 1986. Please also note that my spouse and I are owners of land in Sherman County that is irrigated in accordance with the management provisions of Groundwater Management District No. 4.

My higher education was entirely through the University of Kansas and resulted in a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, a Master's Degree in Water Resources Engineering, and a Doctorate in Water Resources Engineering.

Through my professional career, I have had the opportunity to review the operations of many water supply agencies. The operations of the most effective agencies were marked by sound financial management, transparency in all matters with their constituents and the public, and promotion of efficient use of water. In essence, these agencies are wise stewards of their financial, human, and natural resources.

I believe that H.B. No. 2279 promotes appropriate goals for the Groundwater Management Districts in the State. The prescribed financial statement and annual report will be useful in tracking the activities of the districts and the extent to which they are meeting their management objectives. It is particularly useful that reporting is required on how the expenditures of the district support water conservation and the prevention of economic deterioration through the stabilization of agriculture. The major drought that covered most of

Western Kansas for the past year emphasized the need for efficient use of our limited groundwater resources.

As all of the districts also include groundwater use for municipal, commercial, and industrial purposes, this might be made more explicit in any potential revisions of the language of the bill.

One objection that could be raised to the proposed legislation is that it creates an unnecessary additional reporting requirement for the groundwater management districts. For the reasons previously stated in this testimony, I believe that such reporting should be part of effective management operations and isn't unnecessarily burdensome.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.