



KANSAS RURAL CENTER

FOR THE HEALTH OF THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE

KANSAS RURAL CENTER

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Written Testimony on HB 2302 House Committee on Water

Dear Chairman Minnix and Members of the House Committee on Water:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony on KB 2302. I'm the Executive Director of the Kansas Rural Center, which has been working to build an economically viable, ecologically sound and socially just farming and food system for Kansans for over 40 years. Water is obviously a key piece both for the future of our food and farming systems and the health of Kansas communities.

We are enthused that this committee is undertaking a bill that will provide stable funding for the state water plan fund and supply needed resources for working on the water challenges faced by the state of Kansas. As an organization we would like to note that funding this effort through an allocation of state sales tax funds is unfair to the majority of Kansans. The vast majority of water usage in the state is attributed to a relatively small number of irrigators, and we feel that they should shoulder more of the cost for efforts to manage water usage in the state. Without adding any usage fees or other way for those using the majority of this scarce resource to pay their fair share, this bill is imposing an unfair burden on the majority of Kansas taxpayers. We support the efforts to manage the critical water issues facing the state, and wholeheartedly support the funding to the state water plan, but hope that the funding could be sourced in a more equitable manner.

Thank you to members of the committee for their consideration.

Tom Buller
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