



February 14, 2023

Chair Minnix and Members of the Committee on Water,

Since 1907, Kansas Farmers Union has worked to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers, and our rural communities.

On behalf of our members, I am pleased to give testimony in support of HB2302.

Kansas Farmers Union's member-driven, grassroots policy supports sustainable agricultural water use and that present irrigation practices and future development conform to strict conservation principles to assure the wisest use of water to minimize the possibilities for adverse environmental and economic impact on affected communities. We also acknowledge the urgency to make dramatic changes in agriculture and other sectors to address the ongoing climate crisis.

I would encourage you all to take the time and listen to David Condos' "Parched" coverage on High Plains Public Radio. In these stories, there are numerous examples of reasonable, common sense water conservation practices, many of which can be funded through projects like those covered in this bill. There are also strong and sobering reminders of the pressing need to address the ever-dwindling resource that is water, whether it comes from the sky or beneath our feet.

Water conservation is the most important issue you can address in this and any future legislative session. We are proud to support this testimony and look forward to its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I will gladly stand for questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Levendofsky", written in a cursive style.

Nick Levendofsky

Executive Director

Kansas Farmers Union

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