



**Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources
Testimony on SB48
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office
February 15, 2017**

Good morning, Chairman Kerschen and members of the Committee, I am Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office, and I wish to provide written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Water Authority supporting SB48, as it relates to remedies for impairment of water rights.

This issue is one of great interest to many, including the Kansas Water Authority (KWA), Regional Advisory Committees, and water users. The balance between the protection of a limited resource and the protection of property rights is a topic of great importance as we all look for ways to extend our groundwater resources in Western Kansas. The KWA, at the request of the Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee, engaged in a discussion regarding this issue in December, 2015, and determined the issue to be important, complex, and worthy of closer examination. The KWA established a Sub-Committee of three members to look at this legislation, study the many questions surrounding the impairment investigation process, and participate in a broader coalition of stakeholders convened by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) to find the best solution for all involved parties.

KDA's stakeholder group met throughout 2016, and KWA members continued to participate in the discussion. The stakeholder discussion was robust and informative, and provided adequate time to find appropriate language within the Kansas Water Appropriations Act to define a process to address the concerns expressed. The KWA took action in January to formally support the proposed legislation, SB48. Thank you for allowing me to appear today, and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.