



The Kansas Groundwater Management Districts

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Proponent Testimony on SB 272 to the Senate Agriculture Committee

Wayne Bossert Kansas Groundwater Management Districts (GMD's) January 18, 2012

All five Kansas Groundwater Management Districts support the concept of this bill in providing Kansas water right owners with multi-year flexibility in their water usage. The benefits to our water users coming out of the 2011 drought are also significant and this bill certainly provides these folks with additional options for groundwater management going forward.

We hope that in putting this bill draft together there will be no unintended consequences. One such possibility might be the potential of additional terms and conditions mandated by the chief engineer on administrative divisions of water rights under New Section 1. (a). This bill makes all future divisions an application process with the potential for more influence by the chief engineer via rules on established property rights. We hope at least any future rules authorized herein and promulgated by the chief engineer will mirror the process we have all been using over the past decade or so while assisting water right owners with administrative divisions.

The other possibility is contained in Sec. 2. (b) (1) (B) where the statute references three division of water resources regulations. The possibility of the division of water resources later amending these regulations, and thus changing statute, indicates clearer legislative language might be sought to properly state this section.

However, neither of these concerns is cause to oppose this bill. There are too many positive aspects of this bill to oppose it.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of all five Kansas GMDs.