



TESTIMONY OF THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
TO THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 8, 2012
ON SB 357

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 357. This bill reflects the collaborative work of the Kansas Association of Counties, Riley County, Farm Bureau and the Kansas Livestock Association, and is a good compromise among our varying interests. We have continued to have conversations with the local conservation districts about our progress on the legislation, but I cannot speak to their position on the bill.

I was happily unaware of the issue of blowing dirt until Riley County and Farm Bureau began discussions on this issue after a situation arose in Riley County. Counties want to regulate this issue to some extent in order to protect the public from unsafe situations. Understandably, Farm Bureau and the Kansas Livestock Association are concerned about too much governmental involvement in private property.

Together the parties discussed what items contained in this 1930s law could be modified and modernized to reflect current practices. Kansas Association of Counties accepts that counties no longer need to play the role of conserving land (preventing "irreparable damage to the land"), given the role the federal government now plays in conservation. In discussing this proposal with county commissioners, they welcome the requirements for scientific-based evidence in deciding this issue, and we believe the new references to Natural Resource Conservation Services and the assistance provided by the local conservation district will help commissioners protect the public without burdening landowners.

We appreciate the work of all parties on this piece of legislation, and ask the committee to enact SB 357 *with the amendments proposed by the parties.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa A. Wangemann".

Melissa A. Wangemann

General Counsel & Director of Legislative Affairs

300 SW 8th Avenue
3rd Floor
Topeka, KS 66603-3912
785•272•2585
Fax 785•272•3585