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Tracy Streeter, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

**Before the
House Committee on Water and Environment
Testimony on HB 2272
Earl Lewis, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office
February 9, 2017**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear this morning in opposition to House Bill 2272. My name is Earl Lewis, and I am the Assistant Director of the Kansas Water Office.

I appear in opposition to HB 2272 as it is duplicative and unnecessary. The mission of the Kansas water collaborative is already covered by enabling statutory authority of the Kansas Water Office in K.S.A. 74-2608.

Duties of office. The Kansas water office shall:

(a) Collect and compile information pertaining to climate, water and soil as related to the usage of water for agricultural, industrial and municipal purposes and the availability of water supplies in the several watersheds of the state, and, in so doing, the office shall collect and compile the information obtainable from other agencies, instrumentalities of the state, political subdivisions of the state and the federal government.

(b) Develop a state plan of water resources management, conservation and development for water planning areas as determined by the office, and cooperate with any agency or instrumentality of the state or federal government now or hereafter engaged in the development of plans or having developed plans affecting any such area of the state.

Other state agencies and universities are also directed to cooperate with the Kansas Water Office in these activities in K.S.A. 74-2610.

Cooperation of other state agencies. The division of water resources of the Kansas department of agriculture and the chief engineer thereof, the state geological survey of the university of Kansas, the director of the agricultural experiment stations of Kansas state university, the chief engineer of the department of health and environment, and all other state and local agencies shall cooperate with and shall make available to the water resources board all facts, records, information and data requested by said board and shall in all ways cooperate with said board in carrying out its duties imposed by this act.

Each of these activities is overseen by the Kansas Water Authority, whose responsibilities are defined in K.S.A. 74-2622 to include:

- (1) Consult with and be advisory to the governor, the legislature and the director of the Kansas water office.
- (2) Review plans for the development, management and use of the water resources of the state by any state or local agency.
- (3) Make a study of the laws of this state, other states and the federal government relating to conservation and development of water resources, appropriation of water for beneficial use, flood control, construction of levees, drainage, irrigation, soil conservation, watershed development, stream control, gauging of stream and stream pollution for the purpose of determining the necessity or advisability of the enactment of new or amendatory legislation in this state on such subjects.

I have attached a table that shows the current membership of the Kansas Water Authority and what entity or group they represent. You will notice that there is a significant amount of overlap in the membership of the Kansas Water Authority and the proposed Kansas water collaborative.

Finally, there are several areas of the Long Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas, including an entire section to Implement Research-Based Technology at Better Understanding our State's Water Supply. That section includes an action item to:

Annually coordinate with university researchers regarding the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas to ensure future collaborative research supports the successful implementation of the Vision.

We have for years coordinated closely with our research partners at state universities, federal agencies and private entities. Attached is a partial list of research activities in the last few years that are associated with the topics listed in HB 2272. The results of this research guide development and implementation of the Kansas Water Plan and the Vision. Many of the activities you have heard about this session are the direct results of collaborative research conducted under the statutory charge of listed above. Creation of another entity to accomplish the same basic mission will result in additional time and effort expended with little to no additional gain.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on HB 2272. I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

THE KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY
February 8, 2017

NAME	REPRESENTING
Gary Harshberger, Chair	Governor
Pat Apple	Kansas Corporation Commission
Mike Armstrong	Speaker of the House
John Bailey, Ph.D	Public
David Barfield	KDA-Division of Water Resources
Mark D. Fischer	Public
John Floros	Agricultural Experiment Station
Greg Graff	Western GMD's 1, 3, and 4
Randy Hayzlett	President of the Senate
Robin Jennison	KS Department of Wildlife and Parks
Alan King	League of Municipalities
Calvin Kissick	South Central GMD's 2 & 5
Brad Loveless	Environment/Conservation
Rolfe Mandel	Kansas Geological Survey
Edward Martinko	Kansas Biological Survey
Karma Mason	Kansas Association of Commerce and Industry
Jackie McClaskey	Kansas Department of Agriculture
John Mitchell, Director	KDHE - Division of Environment
Rob Reschke	KDA-Division of Conservation
Dennis F. Schwartz	Kansas Rural Water Association
Antonio Soave	Kansas Department of Commerce
Tracy Streater, KWA Secretary	Kansas Water Office
Lynn Wobker	State Association of Kansas Watersheds
John Starns	Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

Summary of Recent/Ongoing Water Research Efforts in Kansas

Research Area	Primary Research Entity	Date
Crops & Technology		
Sorghum Research	KSU Agronomy	Ongoing
Wheat- heat & drought tolerant varieties	KSU Agronomy	Ongoing
Alternative forages	KSU Agronomy	Ongoing
On-Farm Demonstration of Water Management Technologies and Mobile Drip Irrigation	K-State Extension	2016
Groundwater Modeling & Aquifer Characterization		
Aquifer characterization (Index Wells, Annual Monitoring)	Kansas Geological Survey	Ongoing
Groundwater Management District #2 Sustainability Assessment	Kansas Geological Survey	2016
Equus Bed Modeling	USGS	2013
Missouri Region Groundwater Characterization	Kansas Geological Survey	2016
Lower Republican River Groundwater/Surface Interaction Model	Kansas Geological Survey	2015
GMD # 1 Model	Kansas Geological Survey	2015
GMD #3 Model	Kansas Geological Survey	2012
GMD #5 Model	GMD # 5	2010
Economics of Water Conservation		
Monitoring the Impacts of Sheridan County 6 Local Enhanced Management Area	KSU Ag Economics	2015
Limited Irrigation Crop Insurance/ WCA Calculator	Kansas Geological Survey	2017
Monitoring the Impacts of Willis Technology Farms	KSU Ag Economics	2016
Economic and Policy Implications of Groundwater Conservation in Southwest Kansas	Bill Golden/KDA/KS Economic Development Institute	2015
Sedimentation, Reservoirs & Water Supply		
Evaluation of Bathymetric Modification at John Redmond Reservoir	KU Civil Engineering	2014-2015
Regional Sediment Management Studies	USACE	
Bathymetric Surveys	Kansas Biological Survey	Ongoing
Streambank Assessment of the Cottonwood and Neosho Rivers above John Redmond Reservoir	Kansas Biological Survey	2016-2017
Study of Implementation Plans for Siltation Mitigation of Federally Owned Reservoirs	Universal Asset Management	2015
Multi-basin Evaluation of Kansas Reservoir Operations	KWO/Hydrologics	2015
USGS Stream Gaging & Neosho River Monitoring	USGS	Ongoing
Lower Republican River Basin Modeling of Alternative Management Scenarios	Kansas Geological Survey	2014
Reservoir Feasibility Study for Lower Republican River Basin	Burns & MacDonald	2016

Summary of Recent/Ongoing Water Research Efforts in Kansas

Water Quality & Habitat		
HAB Studies for Milford and Kansas River	USGS	2012-2016
Kansas River Taste and Odor	KWO/USGS/Water One	
Water Quality Impacts of Constructed Wetlands on Tile Outlet Terrace Runoff	KU Civil Engineering	2014-2016
Development of Wetlands in Aging Reservoirs	Kansas Biological Survey	2016
Development of Potential Wetland Areas in Kansas	Kansas Biological Survey	2015
Pre and Post Bank Stabilization Fish Monitoring on Cottonwood River	Kansas Biological Survey	2017
Playa Mapping and Assessment	Kansas Biological Survey	2014
Water & Energy		
Energy and Water Conservation Study	Bob Johnson	2016
Produced Water Research	KU Civil Engineering & Tertiary Oil Recovery Program	2016-2021
Decision analysis for reduced water use combined with renewable energy sales	KU Interdisciplinary Energy and Water Initiatives	Proposed
Data Development		
USGS Stream Stats Web Application	USGS	2015
Reservoir Portal Web Application	Kansas Biological Survey	2014-2016
Public Water Supply Data Web Application	KWO	2016-2017
LIDAR Collection	KDA/NRCS/KWO/USGS	Ongoing

