



KANSAS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL  
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[WWW.KANSASCO-OP.COOP](http://WWW.KANSASCO-OP.COOP)

Date: February 8, 2018

To: Rep. Tom Sloan, Chairman  
House Committee on Water and Environment

From: Mandy Roe, Director of Member Services  
Kansas Cooperative Council

**RE: HB 2528- State Water Plan Fund**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 2528. The Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC) is neutral on the bill, but would like to express a few concerns. The Kansas Cooperative Council represents all types of cooperatively structured businesses including agriculture marketing and supply, utility, financial co-ops and consumer cooperatives. Co-ops differ from other businesses because they are member-owned and operate for the mutual benefit of members.

The funding formula was established for the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) so that all water users contribute. KCC members have a vested interest in water issues, and we believe in doing our part. KCC members contribute to the SWPF through registration fees for chemical products and commercial fertilizer.

In recent years, the state's obligation to the SWPF has not been met. HB 2528 requires an \$8.0 million transfer from the state's Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) to the SWPF before other distributions can be made. The KCC stands in strong support of the state working to meet its obligation to the SWPF. However, we have concerns about diverting or removing spending authority from the overseeing agencies – the Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Kansas Department of Agriculture. We believe it is important to allow them the discretion to address the changing conditions in Kansas.

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council, thank you again for the opportunity to share our thoughts on HB 2528.

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