

March 10, 2022

Bill Carp
2700 N Hoover Rd
Wichita, KS 67205

Senate Committee
On Agriculture and Natural Resources
300 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Committee Members –

I am writing in opposition to SB 548 and SB 549. I am not in favor of any legislation that moves local input and control to the state. I am a landowner and water user in Sedgwick and Pratt counties.

I give this as one example among many as to why we need to retain the water districts and local management.

Wichita's ASR (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) project was implemented to pull water from the Little Arkansas River and inject it into the aquifer to be stored for later use. In Phase 2 of this plan, Wichita's engineering firm advised Wichita that they could put wells along the bank of the Little Arkansas River and that they could be drilled to bedrock, which would also be in the aquifer. The engineering firm they hired advised that this would be river flow and would not pull water from the aquifer. GMD #2 questioned the premise that a well could be put into the aquifer without drawing water from the aquifer. They spent several thousand dollars to hire a consultant knowledgeable in hydrology, Carl Nuzman. Mr Nuzman advised that it was unlikely they could place their wells into the aquifer and not pull water from the aquifer even though they were at the river's bank.

At his advice, GMD #2 and the city of Wichita agreed that there would be monitoring wells to determine whether water was being pulled from the aquifer. As it turned out, the monitoring wells showed that water was in fact being drawn from the aquifer. As a result, the city of Wichita had to abandon these wells and draw water directly from the surface of the river. Had GMD #2 not been involved, it is possible that for the past 10+ years, the city of Wichita could have been pulling water from the aquifer and injecting it back into the aquifer, making circles and not increasing the quantity of water in the aquifer, something that neither the city of Wichita nor anyone else would want to happen. My understanding is that neither the state nor the city questioned the original determination of the city's engineer. GMD #2 was the only party that took the initiative and spent the money to verify whether the water was coming from the stream flow.

I believe this example demonstrates the importance of local management of water districts and that municipalities should not be allowed to withdraw from the Groundwater Management Districts.

Sincerely,

Bill Carp