

**Message from the Governor**

Pursuant to Article 2, Section 14 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, I veto **House Bill 2014**.

For its continued prosperity, our state requires an adequate supply of clean water. Every business, farm and home in the state depends on water, yet our supplies are shrinking and our needs are growing. To meet this challenge, we depend on the Kansas Water Authority to help us manage our water supply and plan for the future.

The Kansas Water Authority has worked well for 24 years, acting in the best interests of Kansans, in a non-partisan, non-political way. There is no apparent reason to change its procedures, and certainly no evidence the changes proposed in this bill will improve the functioning of the Authority.

Indeed, the proposed changes will damage the authority. This bill goes much further than simply adding limits on ex officio members' participation in the authority. It reduces these members to a peripheral role, one where they are merely to "act as a resource and support for other members."

If we are to meet the challenges facing our water supply, we must have all voices be heard and need everyone to have a seat at the table. Because House Bill 2014 makes it more difficult to meet our state's challenges, I must veto it.

Signed        Kathleen Sebelius

Date            April 4, 2005