

February 21, 2014

The Honorable Sharon Schwartz, Chairperson
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Statehouse, Room 149-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Schwartz:

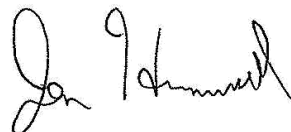
SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2695 by House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2695 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2695 would establish civil penalties in the Water Appropriations Act, administered by the Chief Engineer of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, for the act of sprinkling irrigation water on highways. Currently, this action is considered a public nuisance. The bill would declare any violation to be a class C nonperson misdemeanor, and would establish penalties between \$100 and \$2,500 per violation. Currently, penalties for violations imposed by the Chief Engineer range from \$100 to \$1,000. The bill would also give the Chief Engineer the authority to revoke a water right for non-compliance with the Water Appropriations Act.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is not able to estimate what the fiscal effect would be with the passage of HB 2695. Although the revenue from penalties would increase, there is not a consistent number of violators upon which to base an estimate.

Sincerely,



Jon Hummell,
Interim Director of the Budget

cc: Mark Heim, Agriculture