

My name is Jim Butler, I'm a senior scientist with the Kansas Geological Survey, a research and service unit of the University of Kansas. I am speaking on behalf of the Survey Director, Jay Kalbus, who testified before this committee on Thursday but was unable to attend today.

The Kansas Geological Survey takes a neutral position on bills HB2279 and HB2302. However, we did want to draw the committee's attention to one element of HB2279 – Section 2(a)(1). In our opinion, a sound and defensible approach for defining priority areas of concern would be one based on the comprehensive water-level and water-use data that we have in the High Plains aquifer in Kansas. Kansas is recognized for the high quality of these datasets, their lengthy durations of record, and how they can be readily used to characterize groundwater systems. The Survey is certainly willing to work with the GMDs, DWR, and other interested entities on such approaches.

And with that, I'd be happy to stand for questions if the Chair deems it appropriate.