

Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1
Katie Durham, District Manager
Testimony Supporting HB 2302
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Regarding HB 2302:

Groundwater Management Districts were formed locally in order to address groundwater decline and to promote local management of groundwater within a District boundary. The Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD1) is in support of HB 2302 and the enhanced funding it provides for water management across Kansas.

GMD1 has long supported developing and implementing policies that promote local education, outreach and most importantly local control in addressing concerns of groundwater decline within the District boundary, including cost share programs and other conservation efforts. HB 2302 enhances the ability for existing agencies to provide valuable services and technologies to landowners within GMD1.

HB 2302 would establish the Water Technical Assistance Fund which would provide enhanced resources to Watershed Districts, Conservation Districts and Groundwater Management Districts, including GMD1. GMD1 currently has the Wichita County LEMA which is in it's third year, and the District has recently received notification from the Chief Engineer that the State intends to accept the Four County LEMA, which would encompass the remaining four counties of GMD1. Therefore, all of GMD1 will now be in a LEMA. These added fiscal resources and grant opportunities, made available by HB 2302 would tremendously assist current efforts to prolong the life of the Ogallala aquifer, and provide future opportunities for cost-share efforts and the implementation of water saving technologies, programs and services.