



March 15, 2023

To: Senator Dan Kerschen, Chair
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Re: Written Support for House Bill 2302

Chairman Kerschen and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), represents the 105 conservation districts in Kansas and supports the enactment of HB 2302.

KACD encourages the committee to support House Bill 2302 which significantly increases funding to address water related resource concerns across the state. With nearly 46 million acres of farms and ranches in Kansas our water resources are determined by the management and conservation of working lands. Voluntary conservation of working lands is the best, most effective way to address water resource concerns across all 105 counties in Kansas.

KACD appreciates that conservation districts are recognized in the bill as potential grant recipients to implement projects to address the priority concerns identified by districts and the many partners that we work with. Conservation Districts play a key role in implementation of the programs prioritized for funding by the State Water Plan.

With additional state funding KACD believes conservation districts can increase the amount and quality of education and outreach events, technical assistance, and financial assistance provided to farmers, ranchers, and private landowners across the state to implement projects that improve water resources. We are excited that the funding will allow us to have an even greater impact on water resources across Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and we ask the committee to recommend HB 2302 favorable for passage.

Bill Simshauser

Bill Simshauser, President
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts