



Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
816 SW Tyler, Topeka, Kansas 66612 | 785.220.5211

March 13, 2024

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Re: **Proponent Testimony on HB 2634, providing an additional corrective control provision for the chief engineer to consider when issuing orders of designations for local enhanced managements areas and intensive groundwater use control areas**

Chairman Peck and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2634. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA) and Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA).

KARA is a state-wide agribusiness industry trade association comprising over 700 members companies that supply inputs to Kansas farmers, including pesticides, herbicides, seed, fertilizer, fuel, and agronomic services.

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing, and shipping industry in Kansas. With a membership exceeding 950 Kansas business locations, KGFA represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. Members of these organizations serve Kansas farmers that utilize groundwater to grow agricultural crops that are used to feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

Kansas law does not currently provide irrigators with multi-year flexibility tools for managing water use within intensive groundwater use control areas (IGUCA) or local enhanced management areas (LEMA).

House Bill 2634 would amend current law pertaining to groundwater management districts to provide these additional corrective controls to the Chief Engineer in the Department of Agriculture to consider when issuing orders designating LEMAs and IGUCAs. Such controls would increase flexibility regarding water allocations within those areas.

The bill would provide irrigators with additional flexibility and would assist groundwater management districts in developing long-term plans for water use and conservation, especially during periods of extended drought.

The provisions in this bill represent sound water policy for the State of Kansas and further the goals of supporting our agricultural economy while extending the useful life of groundwater in our state's aquifers.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2634 which passed the House on a vote of 120-0. We would strongly encourage the Committee to pass the bill out of favorably.