



February 14, 2023

To: Representative Jim Minnix, Chairman
House Water Committee

Re: Support for House Bill 2302

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

KACD greatly appreciates the committee's efforts bringing forward this bill 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 critically intertwined with the management and conservation of working lands. Voluntary conservation practices on the existing landscape is the best way to address water resource concerns across Kansas.

KACD appreciates that Conservation Districts are explicitly recognized in the bill as potential grant recipients to implement projects by partnering with Kansas citizens, agencies, private companies and non-profit organizations. Conservation Districts are also critically important in the expanded implementation of existing state programs funded by the State Water Plan.

With additional state funding KACD believes we can increase the amount, and quality, of education and outreach events, technical assistance, and financial assistance provided to farmers, ranchers, and private landowners to implement projects that conserve and improve the state's water resources. Thank you for prioritizing the work of Conservation Districts. We are excited that this funding will allow us to have an even greater impact on water resources and the future of Kansas.

Bill Simshauser

Bill Simshauser, President
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

