



Kansas Corn Growers Association

To: House Committee on Water
Representative Jim Minnix, Chair

From: Kansas Corn Growers Association

Re: **Support for HB 2678 – Extending the period for how long a groundwater right can be deposited in a water bank and requiring a water bank to authorize a withdrawal of water on or before December 1 of the calendar year in which the withdrawn water is to be used.**

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024

Thank you, Chairman Minnix and members of the committee for the opportunity to address the above organization's views on HB 2678. The Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA) represents more than 1,100 members on state and national legislative and regulatory issues and actively works with other organizations to maximize the voice of Kansas corn producers. KCGA is a proponent of HB 2678 and encourages the Committee to move forward and pass this bill.

KCGA has been actively involved in water issues across the state. Our members sit on Groundwater Management District (GMD) boards, operate both dryland and irrigated cropping systems, and rely on water, whether groundwater, surface water, or rainfall, to produce a crop. There is significant interest in the continuation of water availability and a focus on water conservation.

The Kansas water banks are a crucial component of water conservation for farmers throughout the state. The water banks allow farmers to save water for future use at the same location, deposit historic water use for use at other locations, and lease out water with restrictions.

Depositing water is a great tool for water conservation. In exchange for financial compensation, water rights holders can deposit a water right, or part of one, for up to five years. This allows compensation for reduced pumping rates while also allowing others to meet their water needs. Any lease is subject to approval by the water bank. HB 2678 would allow for water users to deposit their water rights for up to 10 years, extending the life of the deposit.

Extending the life of the deposit gives growers additional flexibility to meet their water needs. It would allow for better long-term management of water usage and better enable farmers to work through longer drought periods.

For these reasons, the Kansas Corn Growers Association supports HB 2678.

Submitted on behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association by Taylor Williamson, Director of Public Policy, and Regulatory Affairs.