



2627 KFB Plaza, Manhattan, Kansas 66503-8508 • 785-587-6000 • Fax 785-587-6914 • www.kfb.org

---

**To: House Committee on Water, Representative Jim Minnix, Chairman**

**From: Kent Askren, Public Policy Director for Kansas Farm Bureau**

**Date: February 13, 2024**

**Re: Written testimony in opposition to HB 2697**

---

Chairman Minnix and members of the Committee, on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to HB 2697. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau associations.

KFB policy support both the Kansas Water Appropriation Act and Groundwater Management District Act. Each act clearly defines the role of both the state and local involvement in the proper enforcement and management of groundwater resources. The GMD *advice and assistance is a critical aspect of fulfilling the intent of these water laws.*

As offered, HB 2697 would exclude the valuable, local advice and assistance GMDs provide the chief engineer in fulfilling the responsibilities delegated to that position. As you are aware, we need all the help we can get in dealing with our complex water issues, not less.

HB 2697 is a step backwards in the excellent work this committee accomplished last session with the passage of HB 2297 and sends the wrong message to locals attempting to work with state regulators.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and we ask that the committee reject and not pass out HB 2697.