

## Pump Setter License Testimony

My name is Tony Wedel, the General Manager of Hydro Resources out of Garden City, KS. I am the past President of the Kansas Groundwater Association, I have a degree in Geology, and I have worked for both the Kansas Geological Survey and the US Geological Survey. I've been involved in the water industry for over 25 years now.

Hydro Resources was formerly known as Henkle Drilling, which was started in the 1940's. Our primary business is drilling and servicing irrigation wells in SW Kansas. Most of you know that Agriculture and its directly related business account for approximately \$81 Billion and over 253,000 jobs in Kansas. This equates to about 14% of the Kansas Economy. Estimates put it somewhere between 25% to 40% of all US Beef comes from the beef triangle of Garden City, Dodge City, and Liberal. All life in Western Kansas relies on groundwater. To say water is important to me and everyone else in Western Kansas is an understatement.

The KGWA conducted a survey through the Docking Institute at Fort Hays State. 87% of our members who responded to our survey wanted regulation on Pump Setters. Only 6% said no. We can make that survey available if needed.

Kansas is one of the few states that does not require someone that pulls, sets, or services pumps to be licensed. All the surrounding states have a Pump Setter requirement, except for Missouri which lumps pumps together with drilling for water.

I come before you today on behalf of the KGWA. It's not normal for an association or industry to actively request MORE regulation, but that is exactly what our membership is asking for. In Western Kansas, water equals life. Currently there are no regulations on who can set or pull a pump in Kansas IF you don't modify the well casing or treat the well. There are numerous small companies in SW Kansas that pull and set pumps every day with no oversight or regulations. Regulations would protect our aquifers (the High Plains and the Dakota), by making sure those who perform these services know what they are doing. Yearly training and licensing with the KGWA and KDHE will ensure that Pump Installers are following industry standards. Licensing ensures that if someone does not follow rules and regulations, that there can be repercussions. I've heard many stories about some of the things that go on with pump installers across the state. Everything from not covering an open hole that allows animals to fall in, to not disinfecting pipe before it goes downhole or disinfecting the well after the pump has gone in the hole.

Can you imagine the damage a polluted aquifer in Western Kansas would cause. Billions of dollars lost. Cities and towns would be forced to be abandoned. Now imagine that same damage done somewhere like the Wichita area where much of the population relies on groundwater. Catastrophic would not adequately describe the situation. I know the legislature and the Governor have put a large focus on groundwater in Kansas. Don't waste the time, effort, and millions of dollars Kansas has put into our groundwater resources by allowing a contractor to damage the very resources that you are trying to protect. I've spoken with the management of GMD-1 and GMD-3, and they are in support of it. With the full backing of KGWA, KDHE, and the support of GMD's 1 and 3, I urge you to pass House Bill 2095.