

**Date: January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Re: HB 2477 Written Neutral**  
**To: House Water Committee, Chairman Minnix**  
**From: Justin Cobb, Kansas Farm Bureau**

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Chairman Minnix and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide written neutral testimony on HB 2477 on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB). KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Association.

KFB supports continued focus by the Division of Water Resources (DWR) to expedite processing, approval and certification of water appropriation permits. KFB also supports state laws that provide for the protection, development and administration of water rights consistent with their priority.

HB 2477 makes two substantial changes to DWR's notice requirements. First, it changes the breadth of individual notices that DWR must provide. Currently, DWR must provide individual notice of any applications and orders related to new applications, impairment claims, Water Conservation Areas (WCAs), and change applications. Under HB 2477, DWR would only provide individual notice for change applications. This may have benefits and drawbacks. Many of the notices currently issued by DWR require significant outreach with little to negative benefit to the process. Conversely, water right holders with an issue may be otherwise hesitant to provide comment about a neighboring user if not prompted by a notice.

We believe it is the intent of the agency to include both new applications and change applications in the notice requirements of HB 2477. If that is correct, we recommend changing "and" to "or" in the three instances in Section 2 of the bill where K.S.A. 82a-711 and K.S.A. 708b are referenced, so that it reads:

“(1) Pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-711, and amendments thereto; ~~and-or~~  
(2) that request a change in the point of diversion of a water right of more than 300 feet pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-708b, and amendments thereto.”

Second, HB 2477 would alter the requirement of who must be notified from water right owners with a point of diversion within a ½ mile to simply all landowners within a ½ mile. Similarly, this approach has its pros and cons. It is impossible for DWR to know all points of diversion within any given area, particularly as it relates to domestic users who do not have to register their wells. Notifying landowners provides a better chance to receive full input on the impacts of that application and further document domestic use. However, it will also greatly increase the number of comments DWR receives, particularly in suburban areas or other places with high numbers of landowners. If DWR can process the additional comments in an efficient manner that does not increase application process time, this change should be a positive one.

HB 2477 contains notable changes to the DWR notification process. KFB appreciates the Committee's consideration of our comments and deliberation on the bill.