

**Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1**  
**Katie Durham, District Manager**  
**Testimony Supporting HB 2558**  
**February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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**Regarding HB 2558:**

Groundwater Management Districts were formed locally in order to address groundwater decline and to promote local management of groundwater within a District boundary. The Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD1) is in support of HB 2558 and the critical assistance it provides to local communities within our region.

Over the last several years the GMD1 staff and Board of Directors have worked to establish Water Conservation Areas and Locally Enhanced Management Areas (LEMAs) to address water quantity concerns within the region. In this portion of West Central Kansas many communities have populations under 2,000 with very limited tax bases. There are also many unincorporated communities with limited resources to address both water quantity, and water quality/treatment as well as delivery, fire suppression and safety, and ability to maintain critical infrastructure.

HB 2558 provides additional resources to these critical regions, to repair and replace small municipal water supplies, and protect the viability of the greater community and region. Currently, the community of Weskan Kansas has been awarded a technical planning grant, and are working to overhaul their communities' water supply, treatment and delivery system. Weskan is an unincorporated community of 200 people with limited funding opportunities. This grant program has provided unprecedented support to this community and region. Additionally, many other communities within the GMD boundary are also actively pursuing technical planning and project grants within the current application cycle.

For the reasons stated above, GMD1 submits this testimony as a strong proponent of HB 2558.

Regards,

Katie Durham

GMD1 Manager