



**Before the House Water Committee regarding HB 2558**  
**Joint Neutral Testimony of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Health and**  
**Environment, and Kansas Water Office**  
**February 10, 2026**

Chairman Minnix and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2558. In 2023, the Legislature passed Senate Sub. for House Bill 2302, historic legislation that transferred an additional \$35 million per year to the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) for five years. Prior to this, statutory funding for the State Water Plan consisted of \$6 million from SGF and \$2 million from EDIF, but studies of the issue indicated that Kansas needed to invest more to preserve and protect water for future generations.

Of the additional funding approved in HB 2302, \$18 million was allocated for SWPF programs and projects and \$17 million for two new water infrastructure-related grants within the Kansas Water Office.

Some highlights to date of what the state has been able to accomplish in partnership with local units through HB 2302 funds:

- Provide over 100 communities with grants to address water infrastructure issues.
- Initiate in-lake sediment management initiatives including the Water Injection Dredging Demonstration at Tuttle Creek Lake, resulting in \$7 million in contributed funds from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Increased state Aid for Conservation Districts has been matched with increased local funding; 93 counties now meet the full \$25,000 local match allowing them to recruit and retain quality staff.
- Initiated comprehensive regional planning at a basin-by-basin level.
- Increased funding for Irrigation Technology has allowed the agency to partner with Groundwater Management Districts to provide irrigation system assessments to increase water use efficiency.
- Partnered with local feedlots and dairies to modernize over 20 stockwater systems, with producers matching state dollars at an average of 2.7:1 private to public dollars.
- Began to address the state's inventory of dams with an increased number of watershed district and high hazard dam rehabilitation projects that improve flood control and protect public safety.
- Remediated additional contaminated orphan sites.
- Assisted low-income households with wastewater system repairs.
- Increased sediment-reducing practices above priority reservoirs.
- Enabled work with a broad group of stakeholders and local partners to begin pilot augmentation and other water conservation programs in the Rattlesnake Creek. As a result, the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge has—for the first time in history—had water diverted to address the impairment.



HB 2558 would increase the amount of additional annual funding for SWPF programs and projects to \$23 million and for grants to \$27 million until the end of fiscal year 2031.

Appropriation is a prerogative of the legislative branch, however, we do want to note that based on the “Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force for Water Resource Management” report that was issued to the Governor’s Office in 2017, the Task Force had a consensus that at that time, the State Water Plan would need \$55 million to implement the necessary revenue stream for water in the state of Kansas.

The Legislature has taken significant strides to protect the state’s water resource by returning to full statutory funding in 2022 and then passing HB 2302 in 2023. Between existing funding and HB 2302, the state now allocates \$43 million per year to the State Water Plan Fund, which is a remarkable investment. However, based on evidence from other states and some of the challenges that communities are facing to conserve and protect their access to reliable clean water, it is appropriate for the Legislature to continue to consider whether the state is making adequate investment. Regardless of where they live or work, Kansans deserve and need access to clean water for people, agriculture, and industry.

We appreciate HB 2558 for its prioritization of addressing water quantity and quality issues in Kansas and we look forward to continuing a productive partnership with the Legislature to implement its policy and funding priorities.