

**THE GARDEN CITY COMPANY**

**REMARKS CONCERNING HOUSE BILL NO. 2357**

**HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 7, 2011**

Chairman Powell and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present remarks in support of House Bill No. 2357 on behalf of the Garden City Company. The Garden City Company owns and operates Lake McKinney in northwest of Deerfield in Kearney County, Kansas and supplies water to surrounding areas through a series of canals and ditches for irrigation purposes. Lake McKinney is an above ground reservoir capable of storing water diversions from the Arkansas River for future use.

The Garden City Company supports House Bill No. 2357 and the permanent funding source it establishes for the operation and maintenance of river stream gages and irrigation ditch gages along the Arkansas River. These stream gages are used to measure the flow of water and help calculate releases of water from the State of Colorado. For the Garden City Company knowing what water is available for storage or diversion and the discharges coming from John Martin Reservoir in Colorado provides for more effective rotations with the various ditch companies creating more efficient use of our water resources.

Identifying and establishing stable financial support is important for continued monitoring and upkeep of this measuring equipment. Federal resources, primarily through the USGS, are and will continue to be limited making action by the State of Kansas essential to keep these gages functional.

We urge this committee to strongly consider and recommend House Bill No. 2357 favorable for passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Douglas E. Smith  
For the Garden City Company