



## The Kansas Groundwater Management Districts

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### Testimony In Support of SB 214 to the House Ag & Natural Resources Committee

by Mark Rude  
The Kansas Groundwater Management Districts (GMD's)  
March 15, 2011

Good morning, Chairman Powell and members of the committee. I am Mark Rude, Executive Director of GMD3 and currently serving as President of the Kansas Groundwater Management District Association. I am providing this written testimony on behalf of all five GMD's in support of SB 214, which updates the definition of a "person" in K.S.A. 82a-1021(i) of the Kansas Groundwater Management Act (K.S.A. 82a-1020 et. seq.).

The goal of this legislation is to update the definition of a "person" to ensure that all land and water right owner entities within the boundaries of a groundwater management district can be recognized as a voting member and participate in the activities of the District. For example, the current language in the statute does not recognize a limited liability company (LLC) business structure as a "person" that is eligible to vote in district elections, and yet there are many land and water right owner LLC's.

The interest of the GMD's with SB214 is to ensure that land owners and groundwater users within a GMD can participate in the local groundwater management and program financing decisions of their district. We believe SB 214 as amended represents a simple updating of the existing definition to recognize the different forms of a "person" landowner/water user that can be found within a district to continue, as intended, the important purposes of the Kansas GMD Act.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony and respectfully request the committee recommend SB 214, as amended, favorable for passage.

House Ag & Natural Resources  
March 15, 2011  
Attachment 1