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**Testimony on HB 2685, Reservoir Improvement Districts
to
The Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy**

**By Greg A. Foley, Executive Director
Division of Conservation
Kansas Department of Agriculture**

February 10, 2012

Chairman Holmes and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2685. The Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation (DOC) is responsible for implementation of many natural resource protection programs. The DOC works closely with local, state and federal entities to implement multiple natural resource protection programs.

The Kansas Water Plan (KWP) is a guidance document that is developed by the Kansas Water Office and the dynamic plan is reviewed, modified when necessary, and approved by the Kansas Water Authority. The KWP contains a section titled; Enhanced Stream Corridor and Wetland Management to Address Reservoir Sedimentation. Implementation agencies are challenged to utilize all available programs and funding sources to address the KWP priorities.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture believes that the HB 2685 has the potential to compliment the current activities to reduce sedimentation in high priority reservoirs. The KDA does recognize that a locally developed and initiated reservoir improvement district would have to be formed and mechanisms developed to create funding for projects. If a district is formed, the DOC does have an efficient delivery system to work with landowners in watersheds and would be more than willing to assist if requested.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the opportunity to provide support for HB 2685. We support the efforts of this bill and understand that many partnerships are critical to extending the life of the public water supplies addressed in this bill. Thank you for your time and I would stand for questions at the appropriate time.