



**To:** House Energy and Utilities

**From:** Nathan Eberline, Kansas Association of Counties

**Date:** February 16, 2011

**Re:** House Bill 2711

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2711, regarding the plugging of oil and gas wells. The Kansas Association of Counties does not currently have a policy stance on the specific language of this bill, but we appreciate this Committee's effort to look at the comprehensive cost of maintaining wells once they have ceased production.

Because of the nature of our policy statement, we appear as neutral conferees. There will be some nominal accounting responsibilities for the county. But the benefit to the county is worthwhile, as it is important to address the problem of abandoned oil and gas wells. This is particularly true as Kansas looks to grow the oil and gas industry. HB 2711 will help ensure that the industry contributes to the completion steps once a well has ceased usefulness.

Thank you again for the time to testify. I will provide any information I can on behalf of Kansas counties.