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Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members. HB2553 directs the Attorney General to provide representation to Kansas Watershed District #7. Currently the individual board members of the watershed district are being sued by the Kickapoo Tribe for not exercising eminent domain rights given to the district board. I will allow the other conferees who support this bill to give the details of why they believe this falls under the auspices of the Attorney General.

The Kickapoo Tribe is and has been in need of a reliable drinking water source for some time. While all involved agree that the Kickapoo Tribe has a right to a good fresh water supply, there are other alternatives available that would not infringe upon the private property rights of local farmers and landowners.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this situation. I stand for questions when appropriate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Garber".

Randy Garber

62nd District Representative

House Judiciary

Date _____

Attachment # _____