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Dear Chairman Minnix and members of the House Water Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of HB2695 and any legislation that would make the process easier for a county to withdraw from a groundwater management district. Right now, the process is too complicated and the will of the water rights owners and users is being ignored.

As a member of GMD3 and a water rights owner in multiple counties, I know a group of water users in Hamilton County presented a petition to the GMD3 board requesting removal of their lands from the district. This petition was signed by a vast majority of the water rights owners and users in Hamilton County, including myself. At the GMD3 annual meeting in 2023 it was noted that the petition had been received but no action had been taken. It has now been over a year and there is still no remedial action by the GMD3.

Many of the members of GMD3 feel that the services provided by GMD3 are also offered by the Division of Water Resources (Division) personnel in Garden City, and most irrigators that I know go directly to the Division with questions because they know that the Division has the final say, regardless of any opinion the GMD3 may have. In a nutshell, the members in Hamilton County feel that the GMD3 lost its purpose and is focused more on assessments and spending administrative dollars than the needs of its' members in Hamilton County. By now, GMD3 should have taken action to the chief engineer, yet GMD3 has made no attempt to alleviate the grievance of the Hamilton County members and have a conflict of interest by doing so.

Your work, actions, and legislation to simplify this overly extensive process for Hamilton County and any other counties that wish to be removed from a GMD are much appreciated.

Sincerely,



David T. Walker

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