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TESTIMONY

To: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Representative Larry Powell, Chairman

From: John Donley, Assistant Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association

Date: March 9, 2011

Re: SB 124 – Concerning water; relating to water supply storage access and creating the lower smoky water supply access program

*The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,000 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf and stocker production, cattle feeding, dairy production, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.*

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is John Donley, and I am assistant counsel for the Kansas Livestock Association. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony as a proponent of Senate Bill 124. KLA has actively participated in the discussions that have led to the creation of Senate Bill 124.

As is always the case, water issues are complicated issues that can be challenging to address. SB 124 is again proof that many potential issues regarding the use of water can be addressed through cooperation of all the parties affected. Essentially, the bill will allow all water users below Kanopolis reservoir to have the opportunity to purchase a portion of the storage capacity of the water that is owned by the state in Kanopolis Reservoir. This bill sets up the statutory framework for such a purchase to occur.

The details of the legislation, as discussed by other conferees, have been crafted in a manner to allow all water users below the Kanopolis reservoir dam to work together to provide assurances that all participating users will have the ability to meet their water needs at the appropriate time.

Once again, KLA is supportive of SB 124 and urges the committee to vote favorably with regards to this legislation. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

House Ag & Natural Resources  
March 9, 2011  
Attachment 5