

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
SB 272; An act concerning water

February 8, 2012

Written Testimony

Submitted by:

Ken Penner

Chairman Powell and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 272. My name is Ken Penner. I am a third generation farmer in Gray County in Western Kansas involved with irrigation farming/management.

This last year I, with my family farm, sent in a request for overage pumping on several irrigation wells because of the severe drought. One of the wells that we had to send in an overage request is connected to three other wells to simply get enough water to fill one half mile sprinkler.

This brings in the difficulty of trying to reduce usage of that well enough in one year to make up the overage of last year. Obviously it makes it very difficult to irrigate at all with this sprinkler without the use of the well mentioned above. All wells are needed to build the pressure needed to use the sprinkler.

If the overage reduction usage of this one well could be spread out over several years it would make a significant benefit to our management of the water usage. We are waiting right now to see what results will come out of the legislation to make cropping decisions for this field affected by the well mentioned above.

I strongly recommend passing some kind of legislation giving farmers time to manage their water usage in an efficient manner. Thank you so much for listening to my comments.

Respectfully,

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