

**Testimony on Senate Bill 153**

**To**

**Committee on Natural Resources**

**By Keith Grimm**

**Owner of Midwest Irrigation and Partner in Precision Farms**

**February 15, 2013**

Good Morning Chairman Powell and members of the Committee.

I am Keith Grimm, Owner of Midwest Irrigation and partner of Precisions farms in North East Kansas and I thank you for allowing me to be here today to testify as a proponent to Senate bill 153 on behalf of my customers and our operation.

This Bill as stated on page one in lines 23 and 24 will change the definition of a dam to mean anything that has a height of 30 ft or greater and has the capacity to impound 150 acre feet of water or more. Again, on lines 21-29, we can find that as long as the water obstruction does not exceed the 30 ft of height, 150 acre ft of water, and is a class A hazard dam, that it does not need prior written consent from the chief Engineer. All the other changes found in this bill were copied over from the Divisions bill that went into the HB2051.

I feel that this bill will allow us, as farmers, to better utilize the resources that we have been given without having the added expenses of getting the structure engineered. Do remember that this is only relevant to class A hazard structures. A failure of this type of structure may cause damage only to uninhabited buildings, agricultural land, undeveloped land such as hiking trails, or traffic on low-volume roads (500 or fewer vehicles traveling by in an average 24hr period).

Currently, in the state of Kansas, we are working on projects that could have an economic impact of around 5.3million dollars. We feel that by passing this bill it will enable us to better utilize and store the water in wetter, higher flow years and reserve it for the years of drought. This bill would allow us to have more water to apply per acre or distribute across new acres, thereby improving the bottom line of the Kansas Farmer. This bill would allow for more projects, which means more jobs for Kansans, more revenue for business owners, and ultimately more revenue and more secure future for Kansas farmers as we face dry years. In the end, this all provides for a more stable food supply for our state and the world. This will have a tremendous trickle-down effect through the economy and in the end, more profit for Kansans means more tax revenue for the State.

I would be glad to work with legislators to address any concerns that may arise with this bill as I feel this a good piece of legislation, further reducing the amount of government and regulation in our lives, while maintaining a safe environment and lowering the cost to raise commodities that feed Kansans and the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I will stand for question at the appropriate time.