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To: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Representative Sharon Schwartz, Chair

From: Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President

Re: **Testimony supporting SB 36, amending multi-year flex accounts statutes**

Date: March 12, 2015

*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.*

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) supports Senate Bill 36, a bill allowing a water user, who is enrolled in a "multi-year flex account" (MYFA), to carry over a limited amount of groundwater usage into a subsequent multi-year flex account term permit.

For several years KLA members have reaffirmed a policy supporting state legislation and/or regulation that gives water users a multi-year water allocation with flexibility in the volume of water put to beneficial use each year. We supported SB 272, which passed during the 2012 Kansas Legislative Session and viewed it as a meaningful change to the statutes governing the multi-year flex account term permits. The changes from the 2012 legislation resulted in more participation in MYFA term permits

Likewise, the proposed changes to this law are welcomed by our members as it provides additional flexibility and an added incentive for conservation. If water users know they will have the opportunity to carry over a limited volume of unused water during their five year term permit (MYFA), they may be more inclined to cut back their water usage in years four and/or five and save it for a subsequent five-year flex account.

In summary, SB 36 is an improvement to the multi-year flex account law that provides conservation benefits and added flexibility. We urge the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources to give SB 36 favorable consideration. Furthermore, we urge this committee to use caution in considering amendments that may result in less participation in the MYFA program. Thank you!