

**To: House Committee on Water and Environment, Rep. Tom Sloan, Chairman**

**From: Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau**

**Date: February 13, 2018**

**Re: Testimony opposing HB 2726- An act concerning water**

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Chairman Sloan and members of the Committee on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to HB 2726. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau associations.

KFB policy is supportive of water conservation but this bill appears to incentivize the production of preselected crops more than focusing on water conservation. Decisions in determining what crops to grow are best left to farmers who are attempting to run a profitable business in response to the markets.

Water conservation programs that establish water use goals with flexibilities allow farmers to adjust to changing weather, market variability and new technologies while keeping the focus on water, not seeds. Local Enhanced Management Areas are a prime example of what can be accomplished when realistic goals are established, and farmers can farm.

Agriculture needs the flexibility to alter cropping patterns and practices to meet the demands of operating in an open marketplace where our competition comes from farmers worldwide. When the government gets in the business of choosing winners and losers, this interferes with markets and misses the point of water conservation.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment and we ask the committee to reject and not pass out HB 2726.