

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Senator Dan Kerschen, Chairman

From: Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: January 30, 2020

Re: Written testimony in support of SB 270- concerning water; multi-year flex accounts

Chairman Kerschen and members of the Committee, on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 270. 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 supports the concepts of water right use flexibility. We have previously testified before this committee on the merits of water rights flexibility that will not impair other water rights nor have long-term negative impacts on the source of supply.

SB 270 proposes to amend existing multi-year flex account law to make it more contemporary. The original period of record (primarily 2000-2009) for establishing the average use upon which the flex account would be calculated is not useful for those water rights developed subsequent to those dates. Consequently, this period of record must be amended to accommodate those more recently developed water rights.

There are also some aspects of the bill which cleans up existing language used back when drought term permits were utilized in the 2011-2012 timeframe. This is now outdated and should be stricken from law.

Multi-year flex accounts are a popular and necessary tool for our members who must make planting decisions well in advance of weather events. We encourage your support of the improvements SB 270 makes to existing law.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and we ask the Committee to favorably pass out SB 270.