



**Senate Agriculture Committee
Testimony in Support of SB 272
Multi-year Water Flex Accounts
Submitted by Ron Seeber
on behalf of the
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, Kansas Grain and Feed Association,
and Kansas Cooperative Council
January 18, 2012**

Thank you Chairman, members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am Ron Seeber, Vice President of Government Affairs of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA). The KGFA is a voluntary state association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in the state of Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA's membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities which supply fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, seed, petroleum products and agronomic expertise to Kansas farmers. KARA's membership base also includes ag-chemical and equipment manufacturing firms, distribution firms and various other businesses associated with the retail crop production industry. I am also representing Leslie Kaufman with the Kansas Cooperative Council. The KCC is a voluntary, statewide trade association representing all forms of cooperative businesses across the state -- agricultural, utility, credit, financial, refining and consumer cooperatives.

On Behalf of the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, Kansas Cooperative Council, and Kansas Grain and Feed Association, we are submitting written testimony in support of SB 272, a bill that allows for flexibility with regard to water usage. SB 272 amends K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 82a-736, providing for multi-year flex accounts to give irrigators expanded capabilities to manage their crop water over a five year period. Since much of Kansas is currently going through a drought of record proportions, this is a needed tool when there is limited ground water. The stated goal of SB 272 is that use of the multi-year flex accounts will have a neutral impact on ground water in Kansas.

SB 272, coupled with the Governor's other water initiatives, such as eliminating the "use it or lose it" provisions embodied in Kansas water appropriation law, will help adjust water policy in Kansas from a "development" to a "conservation" approach. We applaud the administration for their foresight and implementation of this needed policy change.