

TO: Senate Agriculture Committee
FROM: Sue Schulte
SUBJECT: Written Testimony regarding SB272
DATE: January 18, 2012

The Kansas Corn Growers Association submits this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 272.

Irrigation is vital for many corn producers. It is also important for the corn producer's customers who have established value-added businesses like feedyards, dairies and ethanol plants. In 2010, irrigated corn accounted for 52 percent of the state's corn production on 33 percent of the state's harvested corn acres.

The multi-year flex account approach will certainly benefit Kansas growers, giving them another tool to manage their water use. This approach would allow our growers more flexibility to tailor their water usage based on actual need over a longer period of time. At the same time, it will not increase long-term water usage under the grower's water right.

This will help our growers deal with their needs in times of drought, and conserve in years when their water needs are not as urgent. This plan would not increase water use, and encourages wise use of water allocations. At the same time it offers growers more flexibility and added capabilities for long-term planning.

While we are hopeful this legislation can be passed in an expedient manner, we would urge lawmakers to use due diligence in moving this bill forward to ensure our growers do not suffer any unintended consequences.

Thank you for your consideration.