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**Testimony on SB 357  
to  
The Senate Agriculture Committee**

**by Greg A. Foley  
Executive Director  
Division of Conservation  
Kansas Department of Agriculture**

**February 8, 2012**

Chairman Taddiken and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 357. The Division of Conservation (DOC) is responsible for implementation of many natural resource protection programs. The DOC works closely with conservation districts statewide through the administration of multiple natural resource protection programs. The DOC and conservation districts as well rely heavily upon the technical assistance provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The natural resource protection entities offer technical and financial assistance to implement best management practices that are designed to reduce soil losses from water and wind erosion.

The passage of SB 357 would provide a methodical procedure for conservation districts to provide written recommendations, when requested, to county commissions on best management practices to address soil erosion caused by wind. It is very explicit in SB 357 that the conservation districts shall act only in an advisory capacity, and any authority for corrective action is the responsibility of county commissions. This component is critical for conservation districts to maintain a non-regulatory position in local communities to effectively implement voluntary incentive based programs.

The State Conservation Commission is also supportive of the concept of providing recommendations on cropland soil erosion and land treatment practices to resolve local resource concerns and issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee today. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.