

The Kansas Water Congress

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 2171

February 12, 2013

The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

by David Brenn, President Kansas Water Congress

Chairwoman Schwartz and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and comments on HB 2171. The Kansas Water Congress is concerned with the potential intended and unintended consequences of this bill. HB2171 as written is exceptionally complex and creates a wide berth for County Commissioner's direct and indirect authority in issues of water and local taxing and funding. The language and concept of the proposed bill were created within the Dept. of Agriculture without any deliberation between water agencies, counties, existing water authorities and local water interests. ALMA plans could easily overlap both taxing and planning inside a GMD.

If funds from such a program are re-appropriated to the State, water programs could easily be influenced by the state's ideas of water programming and management.

HB2171 creates many fundamental policy issues and questions as they relate to authorities and capabilities of local governances in dealing with water issues.

Due to the many questions and the broad consequences set forth by the bill, The Kansas Water Congress believes the bill and it's tenets should be placed into interim committee for much needed deliberation and considerations.

Thank you.

House Agriculture & Natural  
Resources Committee  
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