



**Before the
Senate Natural Resources Committee**

Testimony on SB 43

**Susan Metzger, Kansas Water Office
January 31, 2013**

Chairman Powell and members of the Committee, I am Susan Metzger, Chief of Planning and Policy of the Kansas Water Office. I am pleased to appear before you today to provide neutral testimony for SB 43. SB 43 directs the Kansas Water Office to prepare and submit a comprehensive plan that describes four reservoir items: (1) dredging John Redmond Reservoir; (2) implementation of sediment reducing practices; (3) assurance of future storage in Kansas reservoirs; and (4) funding for each improvement project.

The Kansas Water Office appreciates the recognition and support provided for in this bill for the state's highest priority reservoir issue. As many of you know, John Redmond has lost nearly 40 percent of its original capacity to sedimentation and today, only 43 percent of the remaining capacity contains water. As a result, we currently have access to only 25 percent of the reservoir's storage potential. While John Redmond is our current highest priority for storage restoration, it only serves as an example of the condition of many of our state's water supply reservoirs. The Kansas Water Office, in partnership with other local, state and federal stakeholders, is actively developing plans and implementing measures to address this issue.

Development of the John Redmond dredging plan includes drafting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to modify a Corps facility (Section 408), procurement of a design-dredge contract team, identification of sediment disposal sites, and acquisition of environmental permits – all activities that are currently underway in the absence of SB 43.

Ensuring that reservoirs in Kansas continue to provide the water supply benefits they do today will be a long and costly effort. Cooperation and dedication of individuals and all levels of government will be needed to address the issue of sedimentation and increase the amount of storage that is available to meet future needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am glad to answer questions at the appropriate time.