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**Testimony on**  
**to**  
**The Senate Natural Resources Committee**  
**By Kim Christiansen**  
**Kansas Department of Agriculture**  
**January 31, 2013**

Good morning, Chairman Powell, and members of the committee. I am Kim Christiansen, chief counsel with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, and I am here to provide neutral testimony related to SB 43 on behalf of KDA.

Conserving our state's water resources and continuously improving water stewardship are priorities at the Kansas Department of Agriculture. KDA works hand-in-hand with the Kansas Water Office and other state partners to protect and preserve our state's water resources. From making efforts to extend the productive life of the Ogallala Aquifer in western Kansas to cleaning out and enhancing water supply infrastructures across the eastern third of the state, KDA is committed to taking necessary steps today to ensure an abundant supply of water for future generations of Kansans.

Water conservation is a statewide issue and we need to ensure Kansans across the state have tools at their disposal to achieve conservation goals. KDA knows that success is often better achieved through partnerships with municipalities, local government, private citizens and industry, and with universities. The KDA Division of Conservation Water Supply Restoration Program is a voluntary, incentive-based water management program designed to assist eligible sponsors to restore and protect water supply lakes where appropriate watershed restoration and protection are planned or in place. The program allows eligible entities to apply for the financial assistance for removal of sediment, rehabilitation of structures, watershed protection and engineering fees.

In recent years, KDA has successfully partnered with multiple communities to restore water storage structures. A project to dredge Mission Lake in Horton, Kansas, resulted in an aged infrastructure being restored to a productive, useful water storage structure. In fact, KDA learned in July 2012 that due to the drought, the city of Horton started using approximately 100,000 gallons per day from Mission Lake. The use of this emergency water supply would not have been possible if the lake hadn't been dredged.

This is just one example of a successful state-local partnership to enhance and restore a water supply structure. Augusta City Lake is another example and the list of successful partnerships to restore public water supply structures that are reliant on surface water and water run-off goes on. However, in order to continue these necessary projects, we need to consider funding on an ongoing basis to provide consistency in the program and assurance to our partners throughout the state.

As we work together to strategically manage and conserve our state's water, SB 43 will play an important role in developing a plan to dredge John Redmond Reservoir and preserve other water supply and storage structures. John Redmond is critical not only to the Wolf Creek energy plant but it is also a principle source of water for farmers and ranchers in the region, for communities nearby and for all of Eastern Kansas. KDA believes a responsible strategic plan to dredge John Redmond is beneficial and is committed to working with our partners to implement a comprehensive plan to strategically manage our water today and plan for the future.