

February 17, 2015

The Honorable Larry Powell, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
Statehouse, Room 237-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Powell:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 156 by Senate Committee on Natural Resources

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 156 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 156 would add the operation and maintenance of state-line groundwater gage sites in the Arkansas River basin to the list of approved expenditures from the Arkansas River Gaging Fund, administered by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA.)

The KDA indicates that the passage of SB 156 could increase expenditures from the Arkansas River Gaging Fund by \$22,896 in FY 2016. This estimate is based on the current cost-share funding agreement between the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Groundwater Management District (GMD) #3 for operating three existing gages at \$7,632 each.

The KDA could take over the responsibility for funding these gages from the GMD #3; however, it is unclear whether or not the USGS would continue the cost-share agreement should the funding responsibility be shifted to the KDA. Should the KDA assume the responsibility for funding the gages, and the USGS discontinue the cost-share funding agreement for the three gages, the cost to the Arkansas River Gaging Fund would be \$35,001, based on a cost of \$11,667 per gage. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 156 is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,  
Director of the Budget

cc: Justin Law, Agriculture