

To: House Committee on Water and Environment, Rep. Tom Sloan, Chairman

From: Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: February 13, 2018

Re: Written Testimony in support of HB 2691- concerning water

Chairman Sloan and members of the Committee, on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments today giving qualified support of HB 2691. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau associations.

Section 1 of the bill proposes changing the filing deadline for submitting a multi-year flex account application from October 1 to December 31. The present deadline conflicts with harvest and is before the irrigation season concludes making it difficult for our members to respond. We fully support changing the filing deadline to December 31.

As we understand the intent, Section 2 of the bill deals with notification requirements to nearby water right holders in the event of water right impairment, new water right application filing, water right change application filing and Water Conservation Area proposals. We believe such notification to nearby water right owners provide transparency to the public and gives the chief engineer information that should be **considered when deliberating** approval of such water right impacts/modifications.

Occasionally, wells fail and pumpsites need to move resulting in applications being filed to offset existing locations by short distances of 300 feet or less. Such moves generally require less deliberation and may occur at a time when crop stress mandates swift action by the chief engineer. Consequently, unless obvious conditions warrant, nearby notices generally are unnecessary in such cases.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and we hope you will vote to favorably pass out SB 2691.