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Office of the Crawford County Clerk

March 5, 2012

Honorable Kansas State Senator Terrie Huntington
Chairman, Senate Ethics and Elections Committee
and Distinguished Members of the Committee

Re: House Bill No. 2715 Relating to Drainage District and Extension District Elections

Chairman Huntington and Distinguished Committee Members,

As Chairman of the Elections Legislation Committee for the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association, I thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. Each year our association tries to identify any parts of the statutes concerning elections that are unclear or that are inconsistent with other statutes. We ask for your assistance in passing House Bill No. 2715 which will correct some of these items.

- This bill will make some changes to KSA 2011 Supp. 2-624 and KSA 2011 Supp. 24-414 concerning the election of members of the Governing Bodies for Extension Districts and Drainage Districts. This will change the filing deadline for these positions to be aligned with the filing deadline for the city and school district positions that are also currently elected in the spring of odd numbered years. This earlier filing deadline will allow us time to prepare ballots to meet the requirements of the UOCAVA law. Currently the filing deadline for these positions is 5 weeks or 35 days preceding the General Election in April and we are required by the Federal UOCAVA Law to send ballots to overseas voters no later than 45 days preceding the general election date. We also want to include a filing fee of \$5 for these positions so that the filing fee is uniform across the state. We have discovered that when the filing fee is not prescribed in statute that it can vary widely across the state.

The Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials work hard to make sure that Kansas Elections are administered in a professional manner. With the support of the Kansas Secretary of State's Office and the Kansas Legislature we will continue to work to make sure that Kansas Elections are a model for the rest of the country. We respectfully ask for your support in passage of House Bill No. 2715. Thank you again for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald P. Pyle".

Donald P. Pyle
Crawford County Clerk and Election Officer
countyclerk@ckt.net