



**Date:** March 14th, 2023

**To:** Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Senator Dan Kerschen, Chair

**From:** Justin Cobb, Government Relations Manager  
The Nature Conservancy in Kansas

**RE:** Written-only Proponent Testimony – HB 2279

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2279. The Nature Conservancy is a nonpartisan, conservation nonprofit that has worked for over 30 years in Kansas to fulfill our mission of conserving the lands and water on which all life depends. We have permanently conserved over 150,000 acres in Kansas including five preserves that are open to the public. The Nature Conservancy has collaborated with many Groundwater Management Districts in the state to promote voluntary water conservation.

Local, voluntary conservation is the gold standard of conservation and has proven success. Groundwater Management Districts are the appropriate agencies to continue to facilitate these conservation efforts. HB 2279 provides appropriate guidelines for GMDs to follow that hold them responsible and increases the visibility of their work.

HB 2279 is a needed measure given the difficulties certain areas have had in developing and implementing action plans. The overwhelming majority of GMD's spoke favorably of this bill during its House hearing and it strikes a balance between the needs of all stakeholders.

The Nature Conservancy encourages the committee to recommend HB 2279 favorably.