

To: Chair of the Kansas Senate Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee
In Support of HB 2279

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Gina Gigot, I am an owner and operator of Circle Land and Cattle Corp in Garden City Kansas along with my brother Marc Gigot. We are 4th Generation producers in Finney County and take pride in being stewards of both the land and our greatest natural resource, our water as we are located over the Ogallala Aquifer.

We would like to express our strong support for House Bill 2279 created by the Water Committee. After reading the bill we agree this is an imperative step especially in our corner of SW Kansas and GMD 3.

GMD 1 and GMD 4 have taken many steps in the last decade to help with the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer. They have worked with their producers and water right owners to make a difference yet economical in stabilizing the aquifer for their region and have gained much success.

GMD 3 is behind in this process.

On 68 wells we completed a successful 5-year Water Conservation Area (WCA) in 2022 which we saved over 22% of our allocated acre feet. We have just renewed this WCA for another 10 years. Throughout this process we have had a great relationship with all State water offices. The DWR has been extremely helpful on both the local and state levels along with the Kansas Water Office. We have attended many agricultural functions put on by these state agencies promoting the use of WCA's throughout southwest Kansas. Conversations have been with other producers about the flexibility and use of WCA to customize the program to fit their operation. GMD3 has not been promoting the WCA programs and in fact are critical of them in their reviews.

The Kansas Geological Survey has maps upon maps with the areas of concern over the Ogallala, pointing out 10-15% reductions can be considered short-term for making long term strides of saving the aquifer. GMD3's own iCare program gives an abundance of information for local areas and producers where conservation is desperately needed to also complete these goals. In other words, the data has been collected and readily available to collaborate locally and make the future happen for the aquifer and SW Kansas Economy. For these reasons we support HB 2279.

Thank you,

Gina Gigot
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