



Dale A. Rodman, Secretary
David W. Barfield, Chief Engineer

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Sam Brownback, Governor

**Testimony on HB 2357, Arkansas River Gaging Fund
to
the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Paul Graves, Assistant Chief Engineer
Kansas Department of Agriculture
March 7, 2011**

Chairman Powell and members of the committee, I am Paul Graves, Assistant Chief Engineer of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources (DWR). I appear before you today in support of HB 2357.

DWR is responsible for administering the Arkansas River Compact in Kansas and allocating river flows among entities that have water rights entitling them to those flows. Streamgages operated and maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provide accurate information that helps us determine available flows at various locations, distribute those flows to water right holders, and call for compact releases from John Martin Reservoir in Colorado under certain circumstances.

Due to budget cuts in the past few years, we have had to layoff some staff, hold vacant positions open, reduce equipment replacement, and reduce other operating expenses including contractual services. In FY 2011, we have insufficient funds to cover the state's share of operation and maintenance costs for 12 USGS streamgages, seven of which were discontinued due to lack of funding (USGS was able to continue operation of the other five gages with alternate funding). Of those discontinued streamgages, two are in the Arkansas River at Deerfield and Kendall, three are in Arkansas River irrigation canals known as the Amazon-Great Eastern Ditch near Lakin, Southside Ditch near Lakin, and Farmer's Ditch near Deerfield, and the other two are not applicable to HB 2357. These streamgage locations are shown on the attached map.

HB 2357 would allow us to use royalties from the state's oil and gas leases in Hamilton, Kearny, Finney, Gray and Ford Counties to fund operation and maintenance of streamgages to manage the Arkansas River under the compact. We think that means the revenues could be used for O&M of both the river gages and ditch gages in this area.

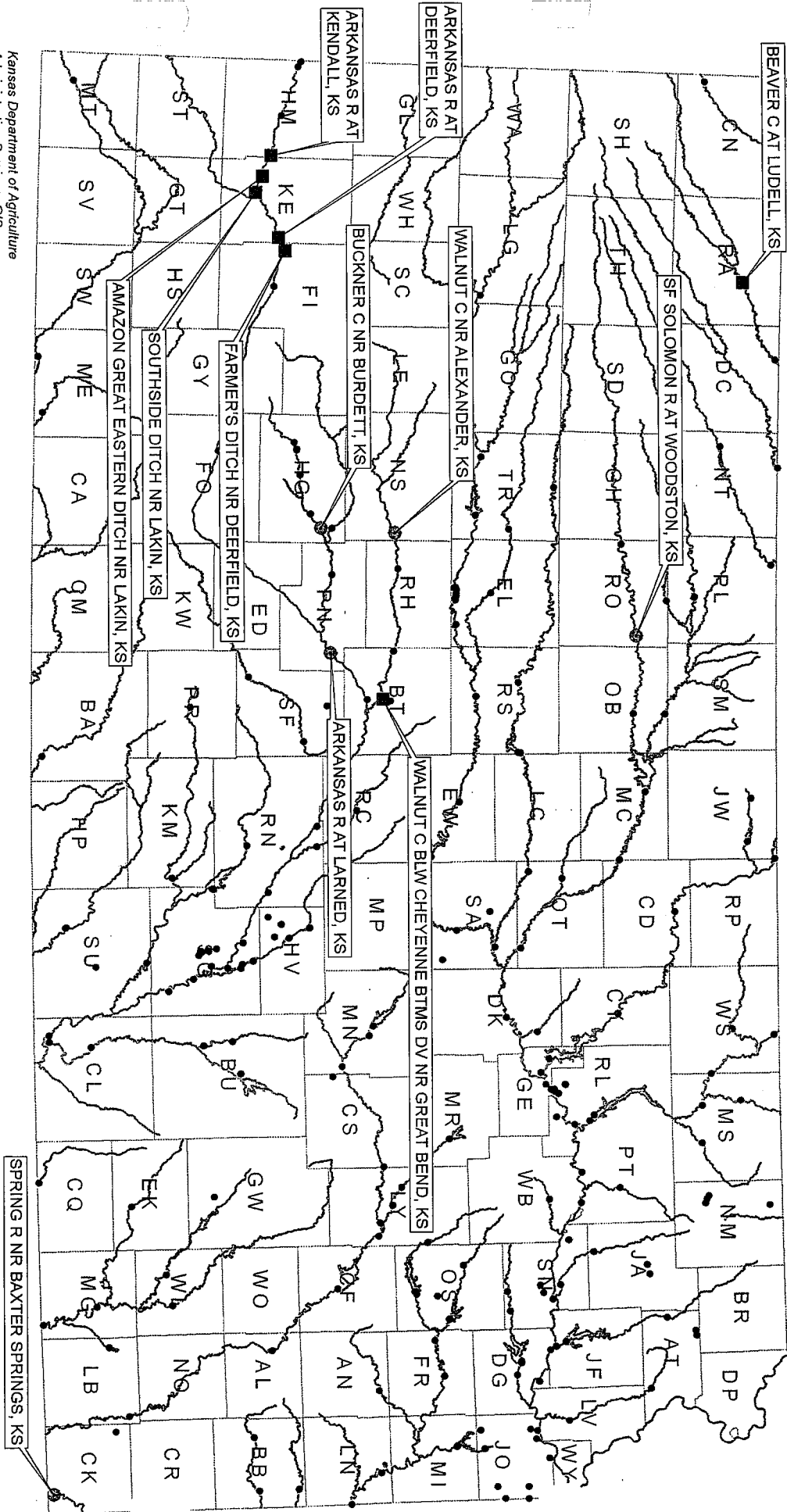
We have been unable to determine the anticipated amounts of oil and gas royalties, therefore at this time we do not know how many of the five streamgages in question could be returned to operation. The most recent costs quoted by USGS to return these five streamgages to operation would total \$51,360. A cost breakdown by gage is attached.

If HB 2357 is enacted, we will use the available revenues in the Arkansas River Gaging Fund to bring these gages back into operation in priority order, or as many as possible to achieve the greatest benefits for Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the bill. I will stand for questions at the chairman's pleasure.

House Ag & Natural Resources
March 7, 2011
Attachment 1

USGS Streamgages



Kansas Department of Agriculture
 Administrative Services, GIS
 February 3, 2011

Gages

- Continued (5)*
- Discontinued (7)*
- Other (213, of which 40 are stage only)



*Gages funded in part by DWR in FY 2010 and continued with funding by other agencies in FY 2011 or discontinued in FY 2011 due to budget cuts.

FY 2011 State Cost-Share for USGS Streamgages Previously Contracted with DWR in FY 2010
 (Based on May 26, 2010 meeting with USGS, Jan. 31, 2011 email from USGS, and Feb. 16, 2011 email from USGS)

Location	State share of cost to continue (as of May 2010)	State share of cost to resume (as of March 2011)	Outcome after DWR funding discontinued
Amazon-Great Eastern Ditch near Lakin	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000	Discontinued
Arkansas River at Deerfield	\$ 10,710	\$ 15,680	Discontinued
Arkansas River at Kendall	\$ 10,710	\$ 15,680	Discontinued
Arkansas River near Larned	\$ 6,780	NA	Funded through U.S. Geological Survey
Beaver Creek at Ludell	\$ 9,180	NA	Discontinued
Buckner Creek near Burdett	\$ 9,180	NA	Funded through U.S. Geological Survey
Farmer's Ditch near Deerfield	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,000	Discontinued
SF Solomon River at Woodston	\$ 10,710	NA	Funded through Kansas Water Office
Southside Ditch near Lakin	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,000	Discontinued
Spring River near Baxter Springs	\$ 1,200	NA	Funded through Kansas Water Office
Walnut Creek below Cheyenne Bottoms	\$ 10,170	NA	Discontinued
Diversion near Great Bend	\$ 9,180	NA	Funded through U.S. Geological Survey
Walnut Creek near Alexander	\$ 89,820	NA	
Total	\$ 52,770	NA	
Total for seven discontinued gages	\$ 33,420	\$ 51,360	
Total for five discontinued Arkansas River/ditch gages			

Notes:

1. Cost to resume operation of the discontinued streamgages has increased because USGS matching funds were allocated to other gages and are no longer available for these gages.
2. The streamgage in the Amazon-Great Eastern Ditch (two ditches sharing the same channel at the streamgage location) has a higher O&M cost than the other ditch gages due to its longer period of operation each year as this channel is also used to divert flows for storage in Lake McKinney during the off-season.