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To: Senate Natural Resources Committee
Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, Chair

From: Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **Testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 310, a bill authorizing “local enhanced management areas” for water use.**

Date: February 2, 2012

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,300 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf and stocker production, cattle feeding, dairy production, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) supports the concept of a “local enhanced management plan” or area, and therefore supports the passage of SB 310.

It appears this bill sets forth parameters for a locally driven effort to manage groundwater use in areas of over appropriation. As I understand the bill, the proposal to establish a local enhance management plan must first be initiated and proposed by the Ground Water Management District. In many situations, the local water users have the most at stake, and if given an opportunity they will attempt to control their own destiny and financial future.

The bill does contain several safeguards, with the eventual approval authority of any local enhanced management plan by the Chief Engineer. In addition, the bill prescribes a public hearing process that will give the public the opportunity to learn about the proposal and offer comments to the Division of Water Resources.

Mr. Chairman, we applaud the individuals who have worked hard on crafting this proposal and respectfully encourage the Committee to give its approval of SB 310

Thank you.