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March 1, 2012

Chairman Ralph Ostmeyer
Senate Committee on Natural Resources

RE: House Bill No. 2472

Dear Chairman Holmes and Members of the Committee:

I am an attorney representing the Kansas Rural Water Association. KRWA supports House Bill No. 2472.

This Bill would eliminate the requirement in K.S.A. 82a-612 that in order to be a “participating member” of a rural water district that the member must own land located within the district. KRWA considers this element of the definition of participating member to be unduly restrictive. There are a number of examples across the State in which someone other than a landowner would have reason to purchase a “benefit unit” (a meter with the right to connect to the district’s water system). These include ranchers desiring to connect for livestock watering, an operator under an oil and gas lease, or a business located in an industrial park.

KRWA believes this discrimination between landowning and non-landowning customers of a district serves no useful purpose. This Bill would eliminate that source of discrimination.

Very truly yours,

GARY H. HANSON,
Attorney for Kansas Rural Water Association

GHH/rsh
Enclosure