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**Before the
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

**Kansas Water Office
Testimony for HB 2321**

**Susan Metzger, Chief of Planning and Policy, Kansas Water Office
February 19, 2013**

Good afternoon Chairwoman Schwartz and members of the Committee. I am Susan Metzger, Chief of Planning and Policy for the Kansas Water Office. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2321.

The role of reuse in water management and conservation is a priority issue in the Kansas Water Plan. Reclaimed water may play a significant role in water supply in Kansas. We believe that the state should identify strategies for implementation of an institutional and regulatory framework to better utilize reclaimed water as a valuable water resource that should be used efficiently and effectively. This bill is a step in that direction.

In Kansas, more than 140 communities and facilities are authorized to reuse treated wastewater. The reuse of wastewater for applications like irrigating turf on golf courses and parks allows these communities to reserve potable water for residential use. While our current Kansas statutes, regulations and programs provide the opportunities for communities to reclaim treated wastewater, it falls short in offering the opportunity to conserve water through the reuse of "graywater" at private residences and other facilities.

Protection of human health is the primary concern when developing and implementing a "graywater" program. We encourage the committee to consider any recommended changes to this bill offered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment that ensure compliance with federal laws and establish provisions for adequate water quality while still maintaining the flexibility for implementation at the local level.

As Kansas enters the third year of an extended drought, identifying ways to conserve and extend our water supply is essential. Adoption of policy, such as HB 2321, that promotes the careful use of our water supply today will ensure we are more resilient this year and in future droughts. And as we work with Groundwater Management Districts and stakeholders to conserve and extend the life of the Ogallala aquifer and consider the development of Local Enhanced Management Areas, HB 2321 gives property owners a tool to contribute to local conservation efforts.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2321.

House Agriculture & Natural
Resources Committee
Date 2-19-2013
Attachment # 2