



December 12, 2013

Testimony of

**Sue Schulte, Director of Communications, Kansas Corn Growers Association
before the 2013 Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Thank you Chairman Love, Vice Chairwoman Schwartz and members of the committee for the opportunity to comment on the Governor's water vision process. I am Sue Schulte, and am on staff with the Kansas Corn Growers Association.

Water is important to grain production and grain production is important to the entire agricultural complex that thrives in Kansas; and helps many of our rural Kansas communities thrive. From the aquifer to reservoirs, water warrants serious discussion. Our growers from all parts of Kansas have been listening and watching as the process takes shape to form a 50 year water plan for Kansas. There is a very strong interest among our growers to participate in this discussion.

After meeting with Secretary McClaskey and Water Office Director Tracy Streeter earlier this week, we are optimistic that a productive, state-wide discussion on the topic of water can take place. Our first effort to bring this discussion to growers will be a joint meeting of the Southwest Kansas Irrigation and Corn Growers associations on January 8 in Ulysses.

As this process enters the early stages, our top priority is to ensure that farmers have a seat at the table, and that the discussion is open and accessible to all farmers. We want to ensure that a wide range of voices are heard on this issue--not just those who are in leadership positions.

As in any process that affects our growers, we ask that that the discussion and any outcomes will be fact-based and science-based and also illustrate the distinction between the different regions of the state. This discussion should also take into consideration the crop technology advances that have been made, as well as future advances.

The Kansas Corn Growers Association certainly plans to be a part of this Water Vision process and we will do our part to engage growers on this issue.

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