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Secretary Jackie McClaskey

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**Testimony in Support of SB 194 to
The House Agriculture Committee
By Susan Metzger
Kansas Department of Agriculture
March 5, 2018**

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 194.

A guiding principle of the *Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas* is that locally driven solutions have the greatest opportunity for long-term success. KDA contends that locally collected funds through the groundwater management districts (GMDs), which are then spent within the district on the operation of the GMD and activities that benefit the local water users, support this guiding principle. Each GMD should have the opportunity to establish a fee that adequately covers their expenses and allows for support of local water management projects.

It is important to note that while SB 194 proposes an increase to the maximum fee that may be assessed, the GMD would still provide notice and an opportunity for input from their members through their proposed annual budget, before the fee is increased. Therefore, the individuals who will be impacted by the proposed fee increase will have the opportunity to voice their input on the fee and the proposed way any revenue would be spent.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 194.