

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
(785) 564-6700



900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-3556

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

Governor Sam Brownback

**Written Testimony in Opposition of HB 2272 to
the House Committee on Water and Environment
by Susan Metzger, Assistant Secretary
Kansas Department of Agriculture**

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The following is written testimony in opposition of House Bill 2272.

The Kansas water collaborative as described in HB 2272 is duplicative and unnecessary.

- The *Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas* calls upon state agencies, as well as local entities, to evaluate and improve coordination and collaboration. Since the adoption of the *Vision* in January 2015 there are many examples of the successful implementation of actions to improve this collaboration.
- An immediate priority *Vision* action item that has been implemented is the creation of the Governor's Water Resources Subcabinet. The Secretary of Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Secretary of Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, Director of Environment within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Director of the Kansas Water Office (KWO) make up the subcabinet and work toward improved coordination on water issues within the responsibility of each agency.
- Many *Vision* action items call upon other entities to collaborate on a specific water-related research or policy area. For example, a Technology Outreach Taskforce composed of representatives from the KWO, KDA, Kansas State University (KSU), Groundwater Management Districts, and multiple non-governmental organizations and private companies joined together to develop the state's Water Technology Farms. The collaboration of these partners has led to a successful model for the demonstration of the latest technologies in irrigation management.
- The Kansas Water Authority is responsible for advising the Governor, Legislature and Director of the KWO on water policy issues and for approving the Kansas Water Plan, federal contracts, administration regulations and legislation proposed by the KWO. The Kansas Water Authority is made up of many of the agencies and organizations identified in HB 2272.
- Nearly ten years ago, a collaborative was formed to develop a strategic research plan to address reservoir sedimentation. This group included the KWO, KDA, Kansas Geological Survey, U.S. Geological Survey, Kansas Biological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, local watershed organizations, KSU and the University of Kansas. Together, this team developed and implemented a research strategy that has directly impacted the policies and actions related to securing, protecting and restoring our state's reservoir supplies.

Many additional examples are available to highlight how state agencies and our federal and local partners routinely coordinate on water resource issues impacting Kansas. As needed, we are very effective in compiling teams of agencies, organizations and individuals to tackle specific water resource issues — the types of issues described in HB 2272.

HB 2272 states that the mission of the Kansas water collaborative “*is to ensure that state agencies maximize the value of agency actions for the state of Kansas and its water resources through collaborative strategic thinking, resource allocation and data-driven decision making.*” I argue that this mission has been, and will continue to successfully be, the goal of each of the state agencies with a role in managing and protecting our state’s water resources.

In conclusion, KDA opposes HB 2272. The mandate for the development of another group is duplicative, unnecessary, and distracts time and resources away from other effective collaborative partnerships.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony.