



To: House Water & Environment Committee
From: David L. Pope, P.E.
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
Date: February 8, 2018
Re: Support of HB 2528

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written comments on our support of House Bill 2528.

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) represents the individual licensed engineers across the state. For over 100 years, KSPE has worked to promote engineering and public safety by delivering professional engineering services and encouraging licensure, in addition to advocating legislation and public policy for the betterment of human welfare and the industry.

Our association cares deeply about the proper management and protection of the state's water resources. This is critical for the future of our state and a staple of our mission. Personally, I have spent over 40 years working in the water management field in the capacity of a Water Resources Engineer and water administrator, including positions with KSU Cooperative Extension, the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District, and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, where I served as Chief Engineer-Director of the Division of Water Resources for many years. In addition, I have worked as a consulting engineer in the water management field in recent years.

We appreciate the committee discussing this important topic. While we do not think this bill is a perfect solution, it is a very positive step to ensure a fully funded State Water Plan Fund. HB 2528 provides an additional \$6M to the State Water Plan Fund by way of EDIF funding (\$2 million is already required by law). Fully funding the State Water Plan Fund with \$8M per year will be a major step forward for the state in maintaining our water infrastructure.

We are grateful this committee continues to aggressively look for solutions. Designated sales tax revenue for water funding appears to be a non-starter. Other user fees fail to gain support either. EDIF funds may be less likely to be swept, compared to the constant sweeps from the State General Fund. We are aware of the recent large sweeps of EDIF to the State General Fund.

We are very cautious to HB 2528's call for the Legislature to directly earmark how the new funds have to be spent. Prescribing priorities in statute makes it difficult to make adjustments as infrastructure evolves.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to voice our thoughts and concerns.

Respectfully,

David L. Pope, P.E.
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

*Attachment 4
HWE 2-8-18*