To: **House Committee on Water and Environment, Rep. Tom Sloan, Chairman**

From: **Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau**

Date: **February 13, 2018**

Re: **Testimony in support of HB 2665- An act concerning water**

Chairman Sloan and members of the Committee on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2665. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau associations.

This committee and the legislature debate bills every session that deal with our very complex and vital water laws. It is imperative that we have a clear understanding of not just fragments of our water law that come to your attention through various bills each year but have a holistic overview of Kansas water law and water policy.

We believe it is time for the legislature to commit to a water law study that is both practical and useful. HB 2665 proposes a review of numerous acts dealing with water at both the state and federal level. If this body believes the will and commitment is there to take on such a study, we do not discourage doing so. But at the very least we believe a study of the most fundamental issues found in the Kansas Water Appropriation Act, Groundwater Management District Act and Kansas Water Transfer Act should be authorized. We might add to this list an examination of the Kansas water planning process as well.

KFB has **policy supporting each of these topics** and welcome more universal understanding of each to facilitate implementation and identify areas that need to be more contemporary. Water is essential to sustaining life and livelihood, we must have a clear understanding of the past, so we can chart a successful course for the future.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comments and hope that you will pass out HB 2665 favorably. I would be glad to address any questions at the appropriate time.