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To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Sen. Dan Kerschen, Chair

From: Orrin Feril

Date: January 31, 2018

Re: SB 194- An act concerning the state water plan fund; increasing certain fees credited to such fund

Thank you Chairman Kerschen and members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 194. My name is Orrin Feril. This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5. (GMD5).

GMD5 is a groundwater management district located in Stafford County in central Kansas. Our district is currently at the assessment caps set out in current law. There are increasing budgetary pressures that could make it difficult for the GMD5 board to maintain current projects and staff while meeting the financial needs in coming years. By increasing the statutory cap, the legislature would be helping to ensure that locally elected GMD board members will be able to adequately fund the necessary tools to manage and conserve the groundwater in their area.

It is our understanding that there is likely to be a balloon amendment offered to SB 194 that will help alleviate many of the concerns of various entities from last year. GMD5 is fully supportive of the changes offered in the balloon amendment.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 194. I encourage this committee to vote favorably to pass SB 194 out of committee and work to ensure that this change is passed during this legislative session.