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Laura Kelly, Governor

Before the Standing Senate Ways and Means Committee
March 2, 2022
548-S 10:30 a.m.

Presentation of Kansas Corporation Commission Staff's Supporting Testimony
Concerning HB2591

By

Ryan A. Hoffman, Director, Conservation Division, Kansas Corporation Commission

Chair Billinger, Vice Chair Claeys, Ranking Minority Member Hawk, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission or KCC) concerning HB2591.

Last session, the Kansas Legislature passed HB2022 which instituted several changes to the abandoned well plugging statutes. These changes were combining the two statutory abandoned well plugging funds, adding clarification to the categories of responsible parties, and directing the KCC to develop a regulatory abandoned well plugging reimbursement program. One aspect of combining the statutory plugging funds was eliminating the transfer of Conservation Fee Fund monies to the Abandoned Well Plugging and Site Remediation Fund contained in K.S.A. 55-193. The transfer thought to be eliminated in HB2022 was referenced in the appropriations bill which created uncertainty about the status of K.S.A. 55-193. HB2591 is a trailer bill to clean up the record and formally repeal K.S.A. 55-193 as was contemplated in the unanimously passed HB2022. Commission staff supports the passage of HB2591 as drafted.

I will stand for questions at the appropriate time. Thank you.