



Kansas Corn Growers Association

To: House Committee on Water
Representative Jim Minnix, Chair

From: Kansas Corn Growers Association

Re: **Support for HB 2634 – Providing an additional corrective control provision for the chief engineer to consider when issuing orders of designations for local enhanced managements areas and intensive groundwater use control areas.**

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Thank you, Chairman Minnix and members of the committee for the opportunity to address the above organization's views on HB 2634. The Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA) represents more than 1,100 members on state and national legislative and regulatory issues and actively works with other organizations to maximize the voice of Kansas corn producers. KCGA is a proponent of HB 2634 and encourages the Committee to move forward and pass this bill.

KCGA has been actively involved in water issues across the state. Our members sit on Groundwater Management District (GMD) boards, operate both dryland and irrigated cropping systems, and rely on water, whether groundwater, surface water, or rainfall, to produce a crop. There is significant interest in the continuation of water availability and a focus on water conservation.

Under current statutes, irrigators in intensive groundwater use control areas (IGUCAs) or local enhanced management plans (LEMAs) are not given multiyear flexibility in their water use allocations. Farmers frequently make irrigation decisions keeping the future in mind. There have been instances where farmers have used more than their allocation for a single year, knowing that they would use less water the next year, whether due to fallowing or crop rotations. Thanks to the current rules, they then received large fines, even though they held to the five-year allowance.

HB 2634 would give the Chief Engineer the ability to allow flexibility in areas with IGUCAs or LEMAs, so long as the overall use of water is reduced during the overall term of the IGUCA or LEMA. This is a win-win situation. The farmer is given the flexibility to manage their irrigation practices with a multi-year view, while still conserving water.

For this reason, the Kansas Corn Growers Association supports HB 2634.

Submitted on behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association by Taylor Williamson, Director of Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs.