

Testimony before the Senate Agriculture Committee
In Support of HB 2517 as amended
David Brenn, President - The Kansas Water Congress
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Good morning Chairman Taddiken and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to present and submit this testimony on behalf of the Kansas Water Congress.

The Kansas Water Congress played a major role in working with both the private and public sectors to come up with the language and support of the original HB 2710 which established the water right transition assistance pilot program (WTAP). This Act was signed by the Governor May 10, 2006.

The Kansas Water Congress supports HB 2517 as amended as the changes set forth in the amendments will clarify target areas making the program more accessible to interested parties and therefore establish a tool for real conservation of water.

Two other positive aspects of the bill are the making of (WTAP) permanent and the fact that funding for the program can come from federal, state or private sources. In addition the permanent partial retirement of water right(s) is a very positive aspect that will make transitions to limited irrigation and dryland more attractive and practical.

In closing, the Kansas Water Congress believes that the Water Transition Assistance Program is a viable program and should be made permanent based upon HB 2571 as amended.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on this important legislation.