

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

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

**Date: January 18, 2018**

**Re: Written testimony for HB 2452- An act concerning property**

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Chairman Sloan and members of the Committee on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of HB 2452. 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.

Watershed structures provide flood and sediment control, water supply and recreational benefits. Most watershed structures are sited on property owned by landowners engaged in agriculture and because of their remote locations, their benefits are often overlooked by the public.

To receive the benefits a watershed structure provides, suitable locations that achieve the most benefit for the very limited resources must be secured. Currently, landowners who otherwise are willing to provide land access for watershed dam construction must wrestle with current guidelines requiring protection of mitigation work in perpetuity. This causes landowners great concern and reluctance to allow watershed construction on their property with indefinite strings attached.

HB 2452 would send a commonsense message to limit protection of mitigation work to the life of project. The landowner, public and environment all benefit from the watershed structure but once that projects useful life and purpose elapse, the landowner regains all rights, privileges and responsibility afforded to private property right holders.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment on this issue.