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To: House Water and Environment Committee, Rep. Tom Sloan, Chair

From: Orrin Feril, on behalf of Groundwater Management District #5

Date: February 6, 2018

Re: **HB 2564-** Authorizing the division of water resources to regulate the use of end guns on irrigation systems.

Thank you Chairman Sloan and members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2564. My name is Orrin Feril. This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5 (GMD5).

Over the past 50 years, the methods irrigators have utilized to divert water have changed dramatically. GMD5 has promoted its members to utilize efficient irrigation practices since its inception in 1976. Center pivot irrigation is the dominant method the irrigators utilize in our area of the state. GMD5 has sponsored several voluntary incentive-based programs to remove end guns over the past several decades. These efforts were met with mixed success.

GMD5 believes the Chief Engineer and/or the Groundwater Management Districts already have the authority as described in HB 2564 through corrective control actions of an Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area (IGUCA) or Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA). GMD5 is currently pursuing a LEMA that focuses on end gun removal as a water conservation tool. This plan will require approximately 1300 end guns to be removed and prohibit another 500 end guns from being reinstalled in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testify on HB 2564. It is always good for all parties to have conversations such as the discussions generated by these hearings. GMD5 is willing to continue to be a part of those conversations.