



To: House Water & Environment Committee
From: David L. Pope, P.E.
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

Date: February 13, 2018
Re: Support of HB 2665

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written comments on our support of House Bill 2665.

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) represents the individual licensed engineers across the state. For over 100 years, KSPE has worked to promote engineering and public safety by delivering professional engineering services and encouraging licensure, in addition to advocating legislation and public policy for the betterment of human welfare and the industry.

Our association cares deeply about the proper management and protection of the state's water resources. This is critical for the future of our state and a staple of our mission. Personally, I have spent over 40 years working in the water management field in the capacity of a Water Resources Engineer and water administrator, including positions with KSU Cooperative Extension, the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District, and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, where I served as Chief Engineer-Director of the Division of Water Resources for many years. In addition, I have worked as a consulting engineer in the water management field in recent years.

We appreciate the committee discussing this important topic. In summary, HB 2665 would establish the Kansas water law study commission to conduct a comprehensive Kansas water law study, that includes a review of six statutes generally related to water appropriation, groundwater management, water storage, water assurance and water transfers. Each of these are important water laws that deserve careful consideration. The Kansas Water Appropriation Act is the foundation of Kansas Water Law, and special analysis and care should be given prior to any amendment to it.

If properly done, there can be value in such a review for the purposes stated in the bill. This should then help facilitate comprehensive administration of these laws to protect water rights pursuant to law, to better meet future challenges related the conservation and management of surface and groundwater, including Kansas storage in Federal Reservoirs, and to meet the long-term future needs for water in Kansas.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to voice our thoughts regarding this bill.

Respectfully,

David L. Pope, P.E.
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers