

COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL ON 10/15/2021, BY FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Conservation districts have a proven track record of success in Kansas, with some districts having over 80 years of grass-roots leadership in soil and water conservation. Conservation districts are often looked to in Kansas, and across the nation, for the ability to offer boots on the ground service in every county. No other state organization or agency has this kind of network in place with staff ready and willing to answer the call to conserve our natural resources for the future. County Conservation Districts assist with carrying out multiple programs under the KWP as well as addressing goals of the local RACs and funding for conservation districts to provide these services is critical. If State Aid to Conservation Districts is not fully funded the impact felt across the entire state would be extensive.

The programs that county conservation districts implement, manage and assist with, related to the areas of water quality, water education, reservoir water supply and sedimentation; and groundwater initiatives provide benefits to all Kansans, our water and our future. Conservation Districts are conserving our natural resources for the future. Conservation Districts are carrying out the Kansas Water Plan. State Aid to Conservation Districts is not simply paying for a position, it is paying for local, grassroots leadership to gain buy-in and participation in voluntary conservation practices and stewardship of the land. Without fully funded State Aid to Conservation Districts, local conservation districts would face dire situations of maintaining staff, ultimately impacting the programs and services administered by the conservation districts for the benefit of the future of the natural resources of Kansas.

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On behalf of the Franklin County Conservation District Board of Supervisors,
Ottawa KS 66067