

Kansas Cattlemen's Association

For Immediate Release
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KCA Protects Producers' Rights and Speaks Out Against Water Jurisdiction Bill

By: Tyler Bowser

Senate bill 787, the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA), which was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate, is a threat to cattle producers and ranchers across the country. The Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) is opposing this bill to help protect farmers and ranchers and their private property rights.

The purpose of the CWRA is to change the wording "navigable waters of the U.S." to "waters of the U.S." The word "waters" is widely defined by the bill but includes any natural pond, stream, interstate and intrastate river and reservoir. This bill would then allow the government to regulate any body of water and the activities affecting these waters.

KCA is concerned with this bill because it would allow the government to control private property rights by placing regulations on private land owner ponds and streams. If governmental departments, who do not understand agriculture, believe that if producers are not meeting their standards, the government can regulate producers right out of business. These regulations would create a hassle for farmers and ranchers, creating obstacles and possibly prohibiting them from utilizing their own land for agricultural purposes.

"Kansas Cattlemen's Association contacted both Senator Roberts and Senator Brownback regarding cattlemen's concerns of this bill. As it's more about allowing the EPA to invade producers' property private rights than restoring clean water, KCA expressed the importance of opposing this bill. We were very pleased with the conversation with our legislative offices and hope that our Senators will vote no on S.787. Kansas cattlemen expect our elected officials to support the Kansas producers who grow our nations safe and wholesome food supply," remarked KCA Executive Director, Brandy Carter.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association will continue to work with our legislators to oppose this bill until producers are fully protected.