



Kansas Grain & Feed Association (KGFA)
Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)
816 SW Tyler, Topeka, Kansas 66612

March 8, 2017

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
FROM: Randy E. Stookey, General Counsel, KGFA and KARA
Leslie Kaufman, President/CEO, Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)
RE: **Written only, neutral testimony – SB 60, Extending the sunset of certain department of agriculture fees.**

Chairman Hoffman and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify before this committee on the proposed changes to the fee statutes as set forth in SB 60.

KGFA is a voluntary state association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 98% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. The KCC represents all types of cooperative businesses in Kansas, including agriculture marketing and supply, utilities, financial co-ops and consumer cooperatives. KARA is a voluntary trade association that appreciates membership of over 700 agribusiness firms that are that register for sale, supply or apply fertilizers, crop protection products, seed, and petroleum products; and, provide agronomic expertise, and agricultural services to Kansas farmers.

The associations submitting this joint testimony represent industries which provide agribusiness services, and store, transport, and sale crop inputs to agricultural producers. Our members pay various fees into the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) for these services, and have a vested interest in the current fee structure and how those fees are used.

Specifically, SB 60 would extend sunset provisions pertinent to our members including those dealing with commercial fertilizer tonnage inspection fees, agriculture chemical fees, pesticide fees and environmental assessments for the Agricultural Chemical Remediation Reimbursement Fund.

During the hearing on the original bill, our associations raised concerns with certain provisions SB 60. We are pleased that the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee made changes to the bill to help address those concerns, particularly as they relate to the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board's authority to reimburse the KDA for the agency's increased administrative expenses. We respectfully request this committee retain those changes

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to comment today, and we will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

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