



KANSAS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL
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Date: March 16, 2018

To: Sen. Dan Kerschen, Chairman
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

From: Mandy Roe, Director of Member Services
Kansas Cooperative Council

RE: HB 2583: Kansas noxious weed law

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2583. The Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC) represents all types of cooperatively structured businesses including agriculture marketing and supply, utility, financial co-ops and consumer cooperatives. Co-ops differ from other businesses because they are member-owned and operate for the mutual benefit of members.

Cooperatives are multifaceted businesses that serve a number of roles for their members. Specifically, agriculture cooperatives often have grain, agronomy, precision ag, seed, fuels, feed and financing operations. Those operations include helping farmers identify and treat noxious weeds. The Kansas Cooperative Council stands in support of the changes to the Kansas noxious weed law outlined in HB 2583.

HB 2583 provides authority to the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture to designate plants as noxious weeds through rules and regulations. This new authority for the Secretary will allow for a quick response to damaging noxious weeds. The KCC has always supported science-based regulation and we believe that the Secretary with the support of the advisory committee will exercise judgement that will result in practical application for agriculture. The KCC appreciates the opportunity to fill one seat on the state advisory committee. Our role will ensure first-hand knowledge and experience with the potential noxious weeds is part of the discussion. Our participation with the advisory committee is key to our support for moving from the current process to the regulatory process.

The KCC supported the amendments adopted by the House Agriculture Committee and we believe you can improve on their work by adopting the proposed KLA amendments. It is our understanding that the Kansas Department of Agriculture has agreed to the amendments proposed by KLA and we request you take favorable action on them.

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council, thank you again for the opportunity to share our support for HB 2583. The KCC would respectfully request, that when the committee considers HB 2583 for action, you consider it favorably with the proposed KLA amendments.

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