



**Written Only Proponent Testimony**

**HB 2203 – Creating the Asbestos Remediation Fund**

**Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee  
March 23, 2021**

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Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.**

Chairman Kerschen, Vice Chair Straub, Ranking Member Ware and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget, thank you for the opportunity to share our support for HB 2203. I am Leslie Kaufman and I serve as the V.P. of Government Relations & Legal Counsel for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC).

KEC is part of a stakeholder group working with KDHE in hopes of developing a workable, sustainable fee model for the agency's air quality (AQ) program administered under the Bureau of Air.

We understand that in the past, air quality fee funds were diverted to cover a short fall in the asbestos program. We firmly believe when fees are collected, they should remain with the program they were intended to benefit. This is even more important when a fee fund, in the coming years, will be inadequate to cover the costs of its own program.

We believe passage of HB 2203 and creating the asbestos remediation fund will enhance fee transparency for both the asbestos and AQ programs and prevent the subsidization of the asbestos program with AQ dollars. This will help ensure that the monies remitted under the air quality program stay with the AQ program.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments. We look forward to working with this committee and the agency to identify and implement a workable AQ funding mechanism.

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