

**To:** House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee,  
Rep. Mark Hutton, Chair

**From:** Greg Krissek, Kansas Corn Growers Association

**Date:** February 17, 2016

**Re:** **HB 2595** – Regulation and labeling of food

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Chairman Hutton and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2595 on behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association. My name is Greg Krissek. I am providing this testimony in my role as CEO of the Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA.) KCGA represents Kansas corn producers on a variety of issues that concern our members.

HB 2595 is necessary legislation that will provide clarity on an important area of law. Last July, the US House of Representatives passed the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, sponsored by Kansas Congressman Mike Pompeo. This bill seeks to create a federal standard making the FDA the preeminent authority labeling of foods with genetically modified ingredients. The bill is now awaiting Senate action. KCGA policy supports this federal pre-emption of state and local units of government in the area of food labeling.

HB 2595 will serve as an extension of this effort at the state level. The bill prohibits the state of Kansas and any political subdivision from enacting, adopting, or continuing in effect legislation regulating a food service operation based on the nutritive or non-nutritive status of the food. The bill also ensures that Kansas and no political subdivision of the state will restrict the sale, distribution or serving of any foods that are approved for sale by USDA or any other federal or state agency. Finally, the bill states that no state or local law can be more restrictive than any federal laws or affect any regulation of nutrition labeling.

Passage of HB 2595 will ensure that the state of Kansas and local units of government shall not be more restrictive than the federal government on food labeling issues. This is good public policy, and we ask for your support of HB 2595.