



KANSAS WHEAT

Kansas Association of Wheat Growers

Good Afternoon Chairman Hutton and members of the House Commerce Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today in support of HB 2595. This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

KAWG is a member-governed organization representing wheat growers in planning legislation, advising government and international agencies on matters affecting wheat, and providing grassroots leadership in the wheat industry. Based in Manhattan, KAWG is funded by over 800 members and works in areas as diverse as farm policy, trade, environmental regulation, agricultural research and sustainability.

KAWG feels that HB 2595 is a step forward in creating a much needed uniform system of regulation that makes sense for the food industry and the consumer. Without legislation like HB 2595, local units of government could create a complex maze of unnecessary regulations that would burden farmers and small businesses, provide customers with inaccurate information and raise food costs. Furthermore, Kansas consumers should have access to the same information regardless of where they live or shop.

A patchwork of labeling laws or nutrition information would create new cost drivers, higher on-farm inputs and a potential loss of money-saving technology for Kansas farmers. A complex maze of varying regulations would harm commerce by imposing costly new burdens on the entire food supply chain.

Moreover, varying labeling and nutrition rules are often rife with exemptions and carve outs. This in turn causes the information provided to be skewed, misleading and often inaccurate. For example, if a regulation required only the disclosure of carbohydrates, then it could lead the consumer to reasonably conclude that a Fudgsicle (16g of carbohydrates per 100g) is healthier than a slice of bread (22g of carbohydrates per 100g).

KAWG recognizes that a uniform system of regulation is necessary to benefit both the food industry and the consumer. Having a patchwork of laws and regulations does nothing but harm to everyone involved. It is for these reasons that that we respectfully request that the committee pass HB 2595 out favorably. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Heady
Government Affairs Director
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers