



Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
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February 16, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Utilities
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel
Re: **Written Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 172, creating the crimes of trespassing on a critical infrastructure facility and criminal damage to a critical infrastructure facility**

Chairman Thompson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 172. This testimony is submitted on behalf of Renew Kansas Biofuels Association (Renew Kansas).

Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels processing industry with membership encompassing the ethanol and biodiesel processing, storage, and transportation industries in Kansas. Renew Kansas' mission is to protect and promote the biofuels industry, and demonstrate the positive impacts of biofuels on the Kansas and national economy. Renew Kansas supports the public policy and economic benefits that flow to every American from biofuels.

Located across the state, Kansas currently boasts 11 fuel grade ethanol plants, one biodiesel plant, and two renewable diesel plants. These critical infrastructure facilities process hundreds of millions of gallons of vehicle fuel annually. These facilities also contribute to the Kansas economy, provide gainful employment for thousands of Kansans, and pay millions in property taxes to help support schools and local government.

Kansas' biofuel processing facilities consist of large process tanks, and large storage tanks of finished biofuels. The provisions of this bill would define our processing plants as "critical infrastructure facilities" – as they contain "hazardous liquid or chemical tanks or storage facilities that are enclosed by a fence or physical barrier."

As ethanol and biodiesel make up ever-increasing portions of the domestic fuel supply, it is imperative that these facilities be protected from persons who would look to cause harm to our nation's critical infrastructure. Passage of this bill will help increase protections for those important facilities.

For these reasons, we stand in support of Senate Bill 172. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. We respectfully request that the committee pass this bill out favorably.