



Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
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March 15, 2023

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
From: Ron Seeber, President & CEO, KGFA, KARA  
Re: **Opponent, Written Testimony on House Bill 2168, which would allow hemp fiber, grain and seeds to be used as food for livestock, poultry and pets; adding hemp grain to the definition of grain.**

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Chairman Rahjes and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 2168. This testimony is submitted on behalf of Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA) and Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA). KARA is an agribusiness industry trade association whose membership includes more than 700 companies across Kansas. KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing, and shipping industry in Kansas.

Located across our state, our member agribusinesses work with Kansas farmers by providing agricultural inputs that assist with growing agricultural commodities and livestock. Our industry contributes greatly to the Kansas economy and provides gainful employment for thousands of Kansans. The Kansas grain and feed industry is a highly regulated industry at both the state and federal level.

As written, HB 2168 would allow industrial hemp to be used as food for livestock, poultry, and pets. We recognize the current interest in using hemp in animal food. However, the use of hemp in animal food remains under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and state regulatory programs, and the necessary scientific research to support the safety and efficacy of hemp in animal food has not been completed.

We have three specific concerns regarding the inclusion of hemp in animal feed prior to the necessary research and regulatory review: 1) animal health and safety; 2) safety of food from production animals entering the human food chain; and 3) adverse impacts to farmers and the animal food industry by unknowingly producing and using adulterated products.

Under federal law, any new ingredient intended for animal food must transit a thorough scientific review process to ensure its safety and utility. Such procedures are critical as Americans purchase food for their livestock and companion animals with the reasonable expectation that they are safe and provide the stated nutritional benefits. Currently, no hemp ingredients have been approved through the established animal food ingredient review pathways, and it would be imprudent for Kansas to bypass these established procedures.

We recommend that proponents of hemp in animal food work through the defined regulatory pathways for animal food ingredients. We urge state leaders to support such research so that the safety and utility of hemp can be fully understood. These questions should be fully answered before hemp is authorized for commercial feed purposes.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 2168. For the reasons stated, would respectfully request that the committee not take further action on this bill.