



Kansas Grain & Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association

March 6, 2024

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel
Re: **Joint proponent testimony on HB 2816, prohibiting entering or remaining on and knowingly making false statements to gain access to animal facilities and field crop production areas, providing penalties therefor and removing the intent to destroy property in the farm animal and field crop and research facilities protection act.**

Chairman Rahjes and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2816. This testimony is submitted jointly by the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association.

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing, and shipping industry in Kansas. Representing 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state, KGFA membership exceeds 950 Kansas business locations. KARA is a state agribusiness trade association comprising more than 700 member companies that supply inputs to Kansas farmers. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels processing industry. Renew Kansas mission is to demonstrate the positive impacts of biofuels on the Kansas and national economy.

Our member grain elevators, biofuel processing plants, and agribusiness facilities play an important role in Kansas agriculture and contribute greatly to the Kansas economy. They provide gainful employment for thousands of Kansans across the state, and they pay millions of dollars in property taxes which help fund schools and local government services.

House Bill 2816 would amend Kansas law to enhance protections for our agricultural facilities - both animal agriculture facilities and field crop research and production facilities.

Kansas agriculture continues to feed, fuel, and clothe a growing world population. To protect our food and energy resources, it is imperative that our critical agricultural infrastructure facilities be protected from those that would seek to harm or hinder animal and field crop production. Passage of this bill will enhance protections for those important facilities.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2816. This bill represents sound public policy for the state of Kansas and Kansas agriculture. We would request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.