

Neutral Testimony of Sub HB 2168
For the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
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Chairperson Peck, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Sub HB 2168.

Reduced licensing fees for farmers leaning into the budding industry of agricultural hemp is a step in the right direction.

For this crop option to be harnessed to its fullest potential, KDA, KBI, & Kansas Policymakers must be ready to embrace updated federal standards with AAFCO and USDA as soon as those updates are announced.

Since 2016, as co-founder of Kansans For Hemp, I've been actively involved in efforts to reduce the fear narrative that "cannabis is drugs" and redirect conversations toward the economic potential of agricultural/industrial hemp for Kansas Farmers. Sooner rather than later, AAFCO & USDA will declare Hemp Seed/Grain a viable nutrition source for pets & livestock. Sooner rather than later, AAFCO & USDA will recognize Agricultural Hemp as a nutrient dense food source for humans too. WHEN that happens, Kansas needs to be ready to enter that arena with gusto. Delay will only continue to hurt Kansas farmers and our Kansas soil so desperately in need of regenerative options.

My testimony for Sub HB 2168 is neutral because, while reducing fees is admirable right now, concerns that fearful leaders (with *opinions* of cannabis not rooted in fact), may continue to stymie hope and progress for a sustainable future, is very real.

The future of Kansas Agricultural and Kansas' economic development depend on leaders who can separate fact from fiction and make timely decisions accordingly.

Thank you for your time and your support of agricultural hemp as a worthwhile new crop option in Kansas.