



March 12, 2013

TO: Senate Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Randy E. Stookey, General Counsel
Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA)
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)

Leslie Kaufman, President and CEO
Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)

RE: Joint Written Testimony on HB 2050, in support of changes to pesticide business proof of financial responsibility.

Chairman Love and members of the Committee on Agriculture thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify to our position on HB 2050. The KGFA is a voluntary state association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in the state of Kansas. KARA's membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities which supply fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, seed, petroleum products and agronomic expertise to Kansas farmers. The Kansas Cooperative Council represents all types of cooperative businesses in Kansas including agriculture marketing and supply, utilities, financial co-ops and consumer cooperatives.

We jointly support the proposed change to the Kansas pesticide law, in Section 2 of HB 2050, which removes the provision allowing a pesticide business licensee to show proof of financial responsibility by use of a surety bond, letter of credit, or an escrow account, while retaining the provision regarding providing proof of financial responsibility through a certificate of liability insurance of coverage for not less than \$50,000 for bodily injury liability for each occurrence, and not less than \$25,000 for property damage liability for each occurrence. We see this change to the pesticide law as strengthening the financial stability of the industry.

We appreciate the Department of Agriculture's willingness to work with us on these matters, and we thank this Committee for the opportunity to share our comments. Please let us know if you have any questions: Randy E. Stookey, 785-220-5211, or Leslie Kaufman, 785-220-4068.