

Robert Grace
Grace Flying Service, Inc.
Legislative Director, KAAA

Good morning:

I am writing on behalf of the Kansas Agricultural Aviation Association concerning HB 2050. The KAAA has approximately 100 members and represents more than 90% of the certified aerial applicators in Kansas. The organization recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The current law concerning commercial pesticide certification requires either surety bond, escrow account, or letter of credit to fulfill the Board of Agriculture's financial requirements. The fourth method is to purchase liability insurance. This rule has been in place for many years, and has worked well for aerial applicators, their farmer customers, and--as far as we know--the Board of Agriculture itself.

As we understand it, House Bill 2050 proposes to eliminate all methods of compliance save for liability insurance. The KAAA opposes this change because some of our members utilize the alternative methods and because the present system offers flexibility to those who desire certification. We do not know if there are issues in other categories of pesticide certification, but if there are, the remedy to that problem should not unfairly penalize our segment of the agricultural community.

In fact, many of our members choose insurance when certifying, but some do not. It is important to remember that any damaged party is protected by civil or criminal law. We do not think that requiring insurance is necessary for certification, and there is some fear that mandatory insurance requirements may increase the number of spurious claims.

We would ask that your committee change the bill to either reinstate the alternative forms of compliance (surety bond, escrow account, or letter of credit) for all categories, or at least allow it for aerial applicators.

Thanks for your time. I can be contacted on my cell phone at [785-341-1478](tel:785-341-1478) if you have questions.

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