



Kansas Grain & Feed Association

Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

Thursday, March 7, 2013

Written Testimony in Support of SB 191

Submitted by Ron Seeber to the Senate Natural Resources Committee



Thank you Chairman, members of the Commerce Committee, I am Ron Seeber, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA). KGFA and KARA support SB 191, the Repeal of the Kansas Corporate Farm Law

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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. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. 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. KARA's membership base also includes agricultural and equipment manufacturing firms, distribution firms and various other businesses associated with the retail crop production industry.

KGFA and KARA understands growing agriculture will grow the Kansas economy. In the past, Kansas has deterred on growth in agriculture by restricting certain farms from operating in the state. The Kansas Department of Agriculture reports that Kansas is one of just nine states in the country that prohibit or restrict certain farms from doing business inside its borders. As you have heard from KDA, the courts have struck down the corporate farming restrictions in three of those states.

KGFA and KARA firmly believe that enacting the Kansas Agricultural Growth and Rural Investment Initiative, we can open Kansas up to the economic development these operations bring and become more competitive with other states.

The additional investment will also result in additional agri-business jobs and growth in under populated areas across in the state. Rural agribusiness greatly appreciates the content of this bill. By growing rural Kansas you will, in turn, benefit Kansas as a whole.

SEN. NATURAL RESOURCES

Date 3-8-13 WJ
Attachment # 5