



To: Senate Commerce Committee, Senator Julia Lynn, Chairperson
From: Greg Krissek, Kansas Corn Growers Association
Date: February 6, 2018
Re: HB 2168- Enacting the Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act

Good morning Chairwoman Lynn and members of the committee, Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA) supporting HB 2168. KCGA is the association representing the interests of corn growers in the state of Kansas.

You have likely noticed numerous articles regarding the need to increase the access to capital for businesses located in rural America in the past few years. With increasing regulations on the traditional lending community, there is often a gap created for businesses looking to expand or begin. For articles on this subject, I encourage you to visit www.ruraljobscoalition.com. This website provides a vast amount of information that you may find informative regarding the Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act as well as other state's initiatives.

The corn industry relies on multiple purchasers of the industry's product. Today, those industries include animal feeding operations, dairies, and ethanol production facilities. The Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act could provide businesses within those industries to access capital in order to open new facilities or expand existing facilities. This expansion would obviously increase the demand for Kansas corn. This would have a positive benefit to the rural Kansas economy as well as to corn farmers across the state.

A strong rural economy is paramount to growing the Kansas economy. Rural Kansas can utilize a stimulus to help encourage growth in the economy. It is the belief of KCGA that HB 2168 would help provide that stimulus. Therefore, we respectfully request that this committee and the entire legislature vote in favor of the Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act in order to help grow the Kansas economy. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today.