



**Kansas Grain and Feed Association**  
**Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association**  
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Date: February 20, 2019  
To: Senate Committee on Agriculture  
From: Randy E. Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs  
RE: **Proponent Joint Testimony for HB 2001, amending remediation reimbursement program and agricultural remediation fund**

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Chairman Kerschen and members of the committee on agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2001. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA is a voluntary trade association that appreciates membership of over 700 agribusiness firms that supply agricultural inputs and services to Kansas farmers.

Our associations appear in support of this bill which seeks to amend the agricultural and specialty chemical remediation act. Passed into law in 2000, the act created the remediation reimbursement program, and remediation fund, to allow for financial reimbursement to eligible persons for expenses incurred during the performance of agricultural chemical remediation, as directed by the Kansas department of health and environment. KGFA and KARA strongly support the purpose of this fund which serves as a form of self-insurance for the agribusiness industry for otherwise non-insurable expenses for remediation activities.

Reimbursements are paid to eligible applicants from the remediation fund. The remediation fund receives no money from the state general fund, and is completely financed by assessments on commercial grain warehouses, agricultural chemical registrants, custom fertilizer blenders, commercial fertilizer registrants, and pesticide dealer licensees.

Initially, this program equally reimbursed agricultural chemical sites and fertilizer remediation sites. In recent years, however, the majority of remediation sites seeking program reimbursement are for fertilizer remediation. The changes set forth in this bill are intended to realign the funding stream for the program with that reality. In addition, the bill extends the sunset on the program from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2030, and reduces the maximum fund balance to \$3 million in order to right-size the program to its current need.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2001, which passed the House on a vote of 119-0. We respectfully request that the committee pass this bill out favorably, without amendment, and will stand for questions at the appropriate time.