

Agriculture and Specialty Chemical Remediation Act
HB2001 – Amendment to KSA 2-3712, KSA 2018 Supp. 2-3713 and 2-3714
Relating to Environmental Remediation of Agriculture Sites

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Kansas Department of Health & Environment Testimony

February 20, 2019

Chairman Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) supports HB 2001. The KDHE Bureau of Environmental Remediation provides a representative to serve as an ex officio member of the Kansas Agriculture Remediation Board. The KDHE administers two environmental contamination remediation programs, the Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Program (VCP) and State Cooperative Program (SCP). As of January 18, 2019, 195 sites in the two KDHE programs have requested reimbursement from the Kansas Agriculture Remediation Reimbursement Program.

The proposed recommendation to lower the maximum and minimum unobligated principal balances of the Kansas agricultural remediation fund will not have a significant impact on the KDHE programs. The proposed amendments to the various annual assessment fees are also not anticipated to have an impact on the KDHE cleanup programs.

The proposed amendment to extend the sunset date of the remediation linked deposit loan program, the remediation reimbursement program and the Kansas agricultural remediation fund from July 1, 2020 to July 2, 2030 will have a positive impact by providing funds to reimburse future remediation activities at agriculture-related sites. The ability of agriculture businesses to be reimbursed for remedial activities allow the funds to be used for additional remediation activities.

KDHE has enjoyed a positive working relationship as an ex officio member of the Agriculture Remediation Board and looks forward to continuing that relationship. KDHE encourages the Committee to pass this bill out favorably.