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Date: March 22, 2021
To: Representative Ken Rahjes, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council
RE: Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 38

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC), thank you for the opportunity to support Senate Bill 38, a bill that passed the Senate by a vote of 35-2 last month.

The KCC is a statewide association that works on behalf of all types of cooperatively structured businesses in Kansas. The industries organized as cooperatives are vast, including agriculture, utility, financial and insurance. Specifically, agriculture cooperatives often have grain, agronomy, precision ag, seed, fuels, feed, and financing operations.

Our grain elevator and pesticide dealer coop members pay annual fees into the Kansas agricultural remediation fund within the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). This fund serves as a self-insurance measure to help recoup remediation clean-up expenses if and when they are incurred by our members. This program receives no state general fund dollars and is 100% self-funded by the agribusinesses industry.

The KCC supports the provisions set forth in Senate Bill 38, which would allow annual transfers up to \$50,000 from the agricultural remediation fund to administer the pesticide waste disposal program within the KDA. The program was previously administered with federal grant dollars that are now expired; and our members feel that helping pay for the safe collection and disposal of pesticide waste materials is a valuable use of their dollars.

The Senate Committee made a technical amendment that better clarifies the term "*pesticide waste*" includes "*pesticides with no identifiable owner or responsible party that have been abandoned or illegally dumped at a site.*" The KCC supports this amendment.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 38, and we respectfully ask that you move this bill favorably.