



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
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January 26, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Re: Proponent Joint Testimony for SB 38, establishing the Kansas pesticide waste disposal program and permitting up to \$50,000 to be transferred annually from the Kansas agricultural remediation fund to a new Kansas pesticide waste disposal fund

Chairman Kerschen and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 38. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and 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.

The remediation fund serves as a form of self-insurance for the agribusiness industry. The remediation fund receives no money from the state general fund. Rather, it is entirely financed by annual environmental assessments on commercial grain warehouses, agricultural chemical registrants, custom fertilizer blenders, commercial fertilizer registrants, and pesticide dealer licensees.

Senate Bill 38 would amend the existing remediation fund to provide for annual transfers of up to \$50,000 from the remediation fund to the pesticide waste disposal program. This program and fund – to be managed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture – would help pay for the safe collection and disposal of pesticide waste materials, from whatever source.

KGFA and KARA strongly support this legislation, and view this program as good industry stewardship and sound public policy. Last year, the House passed this same legislation on a vote of 122-0. The bill was then passed favorably out of this committee.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. We respectfully request that the committee pass this bill out favorably, and will stand for questions at the appropriate time.