



**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION ORGANIZATION**

Date: March 10, 2022

To: Senator Kerschen, Chairman, Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources

From: Brenda Osborne, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Boll Weevil Eradication

I have worked for the Oklahoma Boll Weevil Eradication for the past 22 years. It has been amazing to witness the Eradication of the Boll weevil in Oklahoma. Eradication of the boll weevil across most of the cotton Belt, and in our state has been very successful and is a major contributing factor to the continued profitability of cotton production. It has been a long, difficult, and expensive task to rid our state of this invasive species that for such a long time negatively impacted our production. It has cost Oklahoma cotton producers over 37 million to eradicate this invasive pest.

Passing HB 2559 would provide the security that cotton planted in Kansas would be monitored and checked. Boll weevils are still being caught in southern Texas and Mexico. It is my concern that a hitchhiker weevil could reach Oklahoma or Kansas which would be devastating to the cotton industry. I have seen the benefits of having a Boll Weevil Program in place, thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for Kansas cotton and HB 2559.