



Kansas Grain & Feed Association

Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association



House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Neutral Testimony on HB 2449

Kansas Equine Education and Promotion Board

Submitted by Ron Seeber

on behalf of the

Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association and Kansas Grain and Feed Association

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Thank you Chairman, members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Ron Seeber, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA). The KGFA is a voluntary state association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in the state of Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA's membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities which supply fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, seed, petroleum products and agronomic expertise to Kansas farmers. KARA's membership base also includes ag-chemical and equipment manufacturing firms, distribution firms and various other businesses associated with the retail crop production industry.

I appear as a neutral conferee on HB 2449, a bill that establishes and funds the Kansas Equine Education and Promotion Board.

Our associations do not have a firm position on this bill, however should it be amended to affect our members on the retail level, we will be opposed. Philosophically, we believe that the costs of implementation should be placed as closely as possible to the beneficiary (such as the acceptance of grants and donations as mentioned in the bill).

Whether it be on the local, state, and federal level, our industry is burdened with a whole host of rules and regulations. As always, we ask that the legislature understands this as you move forward with all new laws and programs. In general, KARA and KGFA has apprehension about new government programs regulating and new taxes targeted at the agribusiness industry. Should this bill be implemented, we ask that such burdens not be placed on the our industry.