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**Testimony in Support of HB 2547 to
The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee
By Josh Roe
Kansas Department of Agriculture
February 1, 2018**

Good afternoon Chairman Schroeder and members of the committee, my name is Josh Roe and I am a deputy secretary at the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). I am here to testify in support of HB 2547.

KDA is supportive of changing the board term appointment date. However, we are not supportive of the date of October 15 and recommend the date be January 1 instead. The Kansas State Fair board commonly finalizes the budget and addresses issues that arose at the previous fair, such as livestock drug testing concerns, during the October, November and December meetings each year. We feel that this would not be the best time to have new board member orientation.

The first meeting each calendar year is typically the second week of January, so a January 1 start date would allow new board members to receive proper training before their first meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.