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**Neutral Testimony on HB 2182 to  
The House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee  
By Josh Roe, Assistant Secretary  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
February 15, 2017**

Good afternoon, Chairman Mason and members of the committee. I am Josh Roe, Assistant Secretary for the Kansas Department of Agriculture. We are providing neutral testimony on HB 2182, Authorizing growth of Kansas agribusiness through development of an industrial hemp industry; enacting the Kansas agricultural industry growth act

Kansas Board of Regents institutions, if given the opportunity, might be able further advance the production potential for industrial hemp.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is well equipped to issue licenses to Regents institutions for industrial hemp research. These licenses and testing of hemp can be done with relatively minimal fiscal impact on the agency, making the cost of the license affordable for research institutions.

Current federal law allows the cultivation of industrial hemp for research purposes only. Therefore, Section 3, part (b) of this bill would constitute a violation of federal law. For this reason, we are appearing as a neutral conferee. However, it does clarify in the bill at several points that nothing shall be construed to violate federal law.