

**To: Senate Select Committee on Education Finance, Senator Jim Denning, Chairman**  
**From: John Donley on behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, and Kansas Soybean Association**  
**Date: May 18, 2017**  
**Re: Testimony in opposition to SB 251 – creating the Kansas school equity and enhancement act**

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Chairman Denning and members of the Committee, on behalf of the grain commodity association listed above, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to SB 251. The commodity groups signed on to this testimony represent producers of specific types of grain in the state of Kansas. These groups oppose the funding effort contained in SB 251.

Specifically, we oppose the inclusion of an irrigation fee to fund K12 education in the state of Kansas. There is no nexus between irrigators and education. Any fees applied to our members should be utilized to fund specific programs in state government that have a direct relationship to our members. To fund the general functions of state government through narrowly focused fees is short sighted and does not make for good tax policy.

Additionally, the proposed utility fee may include agricultural utility retail customers under the undefined "industrial utility retail customer" fee. There is no definition for that classification of customer; therefore, there is the potential to interpret the "industrial utility retail customer" to include agricultural customers. This could have a huge impact on Kansas farmers since many farms have multiple meters in order to produce their crops.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 251.