



**Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association**
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March 12, 2020

To: House Committee on Agriculture
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
RE: **Proponent Written-Only, Joint Testimony on SB 285, extending the existence of the UST redevelopment fund and compensation advisory board to 2032.**

Chairman Highland and members of the Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 285. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association (Renew Kansas).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing, and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA is an agribusiness industry trade association with membership of over 700 companies across Kansas. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels industry in Kansas. Members of each of these associations fall under the regulatory umbrella of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Environmental Remediation.

We understand the intent of Senate Bill 285 to extend the existence of the underground storage tank (UST) property redevelopment fund for an additional 10 years. The fund reimburses eligible property owners for allowable expenses for permanent closure of an abandoned underground storage tank, at a rate of 90% of the cost, up to a total of \$25,000 per facility.

Removal of abandoned tanks leads to quicker identification of potential contamination. The UST fund has helped decrease the number of blighted properties, and invigorated redevelopment and economic growth. The property redevelopment program has been successful.

Senate Bill 285 is a reasonable measure and the preservation of this fund is sound public policy, and for that reason we support the bill. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of the bill. We respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.