

## Testimony on SB286

### Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

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Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

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Chair Kerschen and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in support of SB287 related to the revisions of the Kansas Storage Tank Act (KSA 65-34,100 *et seq*). The KDHE Bureau of Environmental Remediation is responsible for protecting human health and the environment from releases of hazardous substances, petroleum products and other pollutants. The bureau manages several remediation programs with the goal of cleaning up contamination to reduce or eliminate the risk to human health and the environment, as well as return impacted properties to productive use.

As proposed, SB286 amends the Kansas Storage Tank Act to increase the maximum liability of the aboveground and underground funds used for clean-up activities at petroleum contaminated sites, and to extend the sunset date of these funds from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2034.

The current maximum cap is set at \$1 million, which reimburses preapproved costs to eligible tank owners. An increase from \$1 million to \$2 million is needed due to the increased lifetime project costs of remedial system design, installation, operation and maintenance. The remedial systems provide safe drinking water in Kansas communities that are impacted by petroleum contaminated groundwater. Many sites that were easier to clean-up have already been addressed. Of the sites that remain, much of the soil and groundwater contamination is in complex geology, which increases the overall cost of a site clean-up.

The current sunset date for the aboveground fund and underground funds is July 1, 2024. KDHE can confidently predict a need to extend the program through at least 2034. There are currently 1,200 sites in the storage tank clean-up programs with an additional 25+ sites being added annually.

These amendments will have a positive impact by providing funds to reimburse future cleanup activities at petroleum contaminated sites. The need for the continuation of the reimbursement program is paramount to maintaining the health and environment of Kansans.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the importance of this bill. I welcome any questions.