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Date: February 19, 2020

To: Senator Dan Kerschen, Chairman, Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council

RE: Senate Bill 345, establishing requirements for the disposal of industrial hemp

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 345. My name is Shahira Stafford, and I am commenting on behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC). The KCC represents all types of cooperative businesses in Kansas with members from various sectors including agriculture, utilities, financial, and consumer co-ops.

Several farmer-owners of our agricultural cooperatives have viewed industrial hemp as a way to diversify their crops and planted acreage last year through the Kansas Department of Agriculture's (KDA) research pilot program. As the KDA works on their commercial program development with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it is our understanding that complying with the effective disposal of industrial hemp is one hurdle that this bill will address.

SB 345 would amend the Commercial Industrial Hemp Act passed last year and allow the KDA to establish a plan for the proper disposal of industrial hemp with approval by state and local law enforcement. The bill would authorize the Department to work with law enforcement to ensure that industrial hemp is disposed in a safe manner by taking possession of, destroying, or supervising and directing any other appropriate method.

Broadly, the KCC has an interest in seeing the Commercial Industrial Hemp program in Kansas succeed and supports the KDA's initiatives in that effort. For these reasons, we support SB 345 and ask the committee to recommend the bill favorably. Thank you.