



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
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February 3, 2021

To: House Committee on Local Government
From: Randy E. Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
RE: **Joint, Proponent Testimony on HB 2177, relating to the dissolution of special districts and assumption of responsibilities by cities or counties**

Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2177. 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 whose membership includes over 700 companies across Kansas. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels processing industry.

Across Kansas, our member grain elevators, biofuel processing plants, and agribusiness facilities pay millions of dollars annually in property taxes that help support schools and local government. These industries provide gainful employment for Kansans in every corner of the state. However, the ability of our members to operate a competitive or profitable business is often determined by the amount of fixed costs they must pay, such as property taxes.

Our members support the essential functions and necessary services provided by local governments. Our members also support the prudent use of government resources in providing those services, and efforts to reduce costs associated with providing those services by promoting increased efficiencies within government.

We understand the intent of House Bill 2177 is to establish a new and innovative procedure to allow a city to provide for the dissolution of a special district within that city, following a public hearing.

As House Bill 2177 promotes efficiency in layered government, and represents sound public policy for reducing the scope and cost of local government, we stand in strong support of the bill.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2177, which advanced favorably last year in the House. We respectfully request that this Committee pass the bill out favorably.