



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

March 17, 2021

To: House Committee on Local Government
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, KGFA, KARA
Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council
Re: **Joint Neutral Testimony on Senate Bill 52, Sedgwick county nuisance abatement act**

Chairman Thompson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on Senate Bill 52. This testimony is jointly submitted by Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and (KGFA) and Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC).

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. The KCC is a statewide association that works on behalf of all types of cooperatively structured businesses in Kansas. The industries organized as cooperatives are vast, including agriculture, utility, financial and insurance. KARA is a state-wide agribusiness industry trade association with membership including over 700 companies across Kansas.

Senate Bill 52 would authorize the Board of County Commissioners to order the removal or abatement of any nuisance from any property in *the unincorporated area of Sedgwick County*.

It is a truism that agriculture, and agribusiness, often finds itself subject to various forms of nuisance complaints. For that reason, we generally oppose legislation that might increase the possibility of nuisance actions against our industry.

However, the Senate amended this bill so that it would not apply to "*real and personal property, machinery, equipment, stored grain, and agricultural input products that are owned or maintained by either commercial grain elevators or agribusiness facilities.*" We have visited with the Sedgwick County Counselor's Office, and they indicated that they are comfortable with this language and view this as an appropriate amendment.

With the additional language that holds our agribusiness facilities harmless, we are able to appear neutral on the bill as it comes before your committee today.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on this bill. We would respectfully ask that when the Committee takes action on this bill, that it would retain the agribusiness exemption language.