



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
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February 25, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Re: **Proponent Joint Testimony for SB 261, establishing the asbestos remediation fund for fees collected as part of the Kansas asbestos control program**

Chairman Kerschen and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 261. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association.

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.

Our associations appear in support of this bill which would direct penalties and fees collected for the asbestos remediation program within the Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment (KDHE) into a new *Asbestos Remediation Fund*, rather than into SGF.

KDHE indicates that annual expenses for the asbestos remediation program are approximately \$110,000. This is roughly the amount that KDHE annually receives in fees. However, instead of being used to run the program, these fees are currently deposited into SGF.

In order to run the asbestos remediation program, the agency receives an annual transfer from SGF in the amount of \$85,137. However, because they need \$110,000, they also transfer \$24,863 from the *Air Quality Fee Fund*, which is an unrelated fund our members pay in to through fees.

Following passage of this bill, KDHE would receive the \$110,000 from fees and penalties directly, instead of this money being deposited into SGF. In addition, KDHE would no longer transfer the money from the *Air Quality Fee Fund*. For this reason, our industries support this bill.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 261. We respectfully request that the committee pass this bill out favorably.