



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
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March 12, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
From: Randy E. Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
RE: **Joint, Proponent Testimony on HB 2155, providing for department of health and environment response for water and soil pollutant release, discharge or escape**

Chairman Kerschen and members of the Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2155. 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 with membership of over 700 companies across Kansas. Renew Kansas Biofuels Association is the trade association of Kansas biofuel processing plants.

Members of each of these associations fall under the regulatory umbrella of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Environmental Remediation, and are therefore interested this bill.

Currently, all spills of chemicals, regardless of the amount, must be reported to KDHE. Many of these reported spills are of such small volumes as to be very low risk to human health and the environment. House Bill 2155 would allow the Secretary to define, in regulation, minimum reportable quantities for reporting chemical spills.

KDHE has indicated that it is their intention to harmonize their reportable quantities, through regulation, as much as possible with current federal standards with which industry must also comply. This is greatly appreciated and would significantly reduce confusion for the regulated community. As this is the intention of KDHE, our members would continue to support passage of this legislation.

This bill would also allow KDHE to provide technical guidance during a clean-up response, and permit cost-recovery from responsible parties for any state expenses incurred responding to a release. Under the bill, KDHE would have the ability to levy penalties for illegal dumping, and for failing to clean up or timely report a release.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2155, which passed the House on a vote of 85-36. We would respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.