



TO: House Committee on Local Government
FROM: Randy E. Stookey, General Counsel, Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA)
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)
Leslie Kaufman, President and CEO, Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)
RE: **Joint testimony in support of HB 2177**, relating to solid and hazardous waste, amending the voluntary cleanup and property redevelopment act
DATE: February 10, 2015

Chairman Huebert and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2177. KGFA is a voluntary trade association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in the state of Kansas. The Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC) represents all types of cooperative businesses in Kansas including agriculture marketing and supply, utilities, financial co-ops and consumer cooperatives. KARA is a voluntary trade association whose membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities supplying fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, and seed to Kansas farmers.

The Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment (KDHE) administers a voluntary cleanup and property redevelopment program. As good stewards of Kansas land and ground water, many of our organizational members that handle, store and transport bulk pesticides and fertilizer materials have participated in KDHE's voluntary cleanup program (VCP) to remediate a site following a product release.

While our members work hard alongside KDHE staff to complete these projects, experience has demonstrated to KDHE and industry participants that the enabling act has served to unnecessarily impede healthy progression of a large percentage of these projects.

For that reason, KDHE proactively met with industry participants in the program to review the enabling act and identify what changes could be made to the act. Specifically, there are growing concerns within our industry regarding the time an entity remains "active" under the program, as well as cost conditions of the program. At the same time, there is recognition of the need to increase the percentage of participants successfully completing the program, in order to further the original legislative intent of the act of ensuring clean water and soil.

We appreciate KDHE's willingness to work with industry in proposing the changes to the VCP program included in HB 2177. We believe that the proposed amendments have the potential to strengthen the program, decrease time and participation costs, encourage greater industry participation, and increase successful program completion rates.

We would strongly encourage the Committee to pass this bill out favorably. Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments, and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.