



TESTIMONY

TO: HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: PAUL CLARK, PRESIDENT OF ALLIED ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC.

RE: HB 2177

DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2177. My name is Paul Clark, a professional geologist in Kansas and president of Allied Environmental Consultant (AEC). AEC is located in Wichita, Kansas, and works with clients throughout the State of Kansas and has a long working relationship with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

Our clients include counties, municipalities, agricultural cooperatives, energy companies, and aviation manufacturers among many others. Nearly every industrial and commercial sector in Kansas has at least one member who has volunteered with KDHE to improve the soil and water of the State of Kansas on and off their property. As a consultant working with so many different industries in Kansas seeking to do the "right thing" we see hope and frustration. Hope that their efforts, applied under the watchful eye of the KDHE, will strengthen the protection for the citizens of Kansas, yet frustration that current law requires unattainable measures. We support this effort to remove impedances to address soil and water issues under the voluntary cleanup program (VCP) while allowing the KDHE to manage risk as it pertains to human health and the environment.

It is our belief as professionals, and it is our client's hope in doing the right thing, that these amendments will strengthen the VCP while decreasing the time and costs necessary to participate in this worthwhile cause and strengthen Kansas businesses.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.