



KANSAS AGRIBUSINESS RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

SAFE AND ABUNDANT FOOD THROUGH SOUND SCIENCE

Feb. 10, 2015

TO: Sen. Garrett Love, Chairman and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Ron Seeber, Senior Vice President
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

RE: Support for SB 134 – Moving noxious weed designation to the regulatory process

Chairman Love and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to comment today in support of SB 134 regarding the designation of noxious weeds through the rule and regulatory process. We support the measure.

My name is Ron Seeber, I am the Senior Vice President of the Government Affairs for the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA). KARA is a voluntary state association made up of over 700 business locations across the state. Our members are primarily ag retail facilities but they include agronomy services, chemical, fertilizer and seed sales and manufacturing companies, and equipment manufacturing, distribution and sales companies.

Normally, our association prefers a legislative solution to address a problem over “legislating” by rule and regulation. However, SB 134 includes a provision that call for an advisory committee consisting of 11 members appointed by the Secretary. The committee will represent landowners, weed scientists, county weed directors and herbicide businesses that will provide science-based recommendations on the control of noxious weeds. As currently written, KARA will have representation on that committee.

As part of the committee, a KARA member will have an extensive and working knowledge of the management of weeds, his or her expertise will guide and advise the Secretary, providing an improved response to potentially noxious weeds in terms of eradication or control. The advisory committee as a whole will also provide for a thorough, scientific and objective evaluation of weeds under consideration. Additionally, by going through the regulatory process, a science-based approach can be utilized and political complications avoided.

Again, we urge your support of SB 134.