



TESTIMONY

TO: SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

RE: HB 2193

DATE: March 10, 2015

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2193. 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).

Working with environmental stakeholders and members of the regulated community, AEC hears many times over requests to close sites that pose little risk to Kansans. We hear it most from those in Kansas agribusinesses having remote sites located well away from communities and drinking water wells. Other sites have long monitoring histories with data demonstrating little or no impact to off-site areas, yet the current law binds KDHE's hand to the most restrictive process for achieving cleanup, essentially that of pristine drinking water or virgin ground. Likewise, as our technology advances and we can detect lower and lower levels of contaminants, we continually fear that new regulations will never allow sites to be "clean" even when those involved consider the groundwater as unacceptable for beneficial use. This is what Kansans face if we do not provide flexibility in our law to allow the KDHE to apply common sense to the site closure process.

It is our belief as professionals that adding the Risk Management Program for the KDHE's use will provide the relief sought by many Kansas businesses managing low-risk sites for the past few decades.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today.