



Kansas Grain & Feed Association
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

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Mar. 8, 2016

TO: Senate Committee on Natural Resources

From: Ron Seeber, Vice President – Government Affairs
Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA)
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Assoc. (KARA)

Leslie Kaufman, President/CEO
Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)

RE: HB 2490 - Support for enhancing powers under plant pest act to reduce/prevent movement of contaminated proved (written only)

Chairman Powell and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, thank you for the opportunity to comment today in support of HB 2490, as it pertains to the Kansas plant pest act.

I am Ron Seeber and submit this testimony on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association, the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association and the Kansas Cooperative Council. The KGFA is a voluntary state association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 97% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. 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 KCC's membership includes farm marketing and ag supply cooperatives, rural electric and telecommunications companies, insurance and risk management operations, credit unions and Farm Credit system members. Together, our agribusiness members handle millions of bushels of grain each year and provide many of the crop protection products needed by producers and landowners to control noxious weeds. Thus, this bill is of interest to our associations and our members.

The changes to the plant pest act proposed are not voluminous, but they are very important for our industry. Under HB 2590, the Secretary of Agriculture will be able to take actions to prevent contaminated crops for reaching our grain storage facilities and potentially contaminating

thousands of bushels of non-contaminated grain. Although, we use the terms contaminated here, something as simple as harvesting a crop 1 day before the pre-harvest interval after fungicide application can render that entire crop unmarketable. Although rare, if our members would happen to unknowingly accepted that grain and co-mingled it with other grain, it could have some safety implications and disastrous economic impacts.

Grain elevators co-mingle grain. Identity preservation is not part of the normal handling of most commodity grain. If there is a concern with a load that our members are made aware of prior to dumping, they will segregate the load. But, if the elevator is not aware of the an issue prior to dumping, the load can naturally become combined with other grain, meaning we are now having to deal with a multiplied problem, segregating an entire bin(s), rather than just a single load.

We believe HB 2490 provides additional tools, and thus protections, to help protect our members and the public at large be helping to keep contaminated grain from even reaching or members doors. Thus, we respectfully ask for our support for HB 2490.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your consideration.

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