

KANSAS HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JACKIE KELLER- [March 9](#), 2016
TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 2479

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Jackie Keller and I am testifying as a concerned citizen because as other certified organic farmers, my livelihood depends on mechanical, biological & physical (hand) weed control. The economic impact of losing certification for three years if drift damage occurs, and/or the possibility of forced chemical control, is unfathomable.

I work diligently at preventing any noxious weeds from going to seed, and I also work with approx. 30 organic producers in E. KS so know first hand how devastating this proposed legislation could be. My 200 acre crop farm has been certified organic since 2004 when I first started working with my past noxious weed director here in Shawnee Co. He gave me signs to post, "Limited Pesticide Use Area," as the word "Restricted" has a different meaning to pesticide applicators.

Lastly, when I [sat](#) in on the Jan. 26 hearing, I was extremely shocked and disappointed to hear the woman employed by the KS Agriculture Retailers Association thank you for allowing them to serve on the 'noxious weed advisory committee.' This is an obvious conflict of interest! I would like to see a committee formed with transparency, and the members to include specialty crop growers and organic farmers.

Thank you,

Jackie Keller,
Chapter Administrator
Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) KS Chapter #2

Topeka, Ks.