



To: House Commerce Committee  
Representative Sean Tarwater, Chair

From: Kansas Corn Growers Association, by Josh Roe, CEO and Taylor Williamson, Director of Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs

Re: **Opponent Testimony on HB 2766, creating the Kansas land and military installation protection act to prohibit foreign principals from countries of concern from holding any interest in certain real property in this state**

Date: Monday, March 4, 2024

Thank you, Chairman Tarwater and members of the committee, for the opportunity to address our views on HB 2766. The Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA) represents more than 1,100 members on state and national legislative and regulatory issues and actively works with other organizations to maximize the voice of Kansas corn producers.

This bill in its current form would have detrimental impacts on two vital partners of our members, the agricultural industry and the state's economy, *Syngenta and Smithfield Foods*. Losing these vital partners in a time of high interest rates, inflation and reduced commodity prices would negatively impact Kansas farmers at a time when they can least afford it.

*Syngenta* is a vital provider of seeds and crop health products for all major crops grown in Kansas. These seeds are tailored to thrive in Kansas growing conditions due in part to the research and development that takes place within the state. Additionally, their crop health products allow Kansas farmers to continue to advance their production using the latest farming techniques such as no-till and precision farming. These practices allow Kansas farmers to operate in the most environmentally and economically friendly manner. Without these vital products, Kansas farmers would be forced to revert to farming practices that would lead to increased runoff, fuel consumption and labor requirements.

*Smithfield Foods* purchases and adds value to more than 150 million bushels of corn, soybeans and grain sorghum annually to support their pork production operations. The agricultural industry and state economy benefit when crops grown by Kansas farmers are converted into higher value protein products such as pork and the value is captured within the region. Smithfield goes one step further by producing value-added pork products that create additional employment opportunities. Analysis by the Kansas Department of Agriculture determined that meat processing has an economic multiplier of 2.05 to the Kansas economy, in other words, for

every \$1 in output in this sector, \$2.05 in wages, upstream incomes and state and local taxes are generated. **This multiplier ranks as the 13<sup>th</sup> highest out of 532 recognized sectors of the Kansas economy.**

Losing these vital partners in a time of elevated interest rates, inflation along with reduced commodity prices would have a detrimental impact on Kansas producers. We strongly encourage this committee to amend or not advance this legislation so that our state's commerce is not harmed.