



Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
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February 5, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs & General Counsel  
Re: **Joint Neutral Testimony on House Bill 2111, increasing CREP acreage cap to 60,000 acres, clarifying eligibility and criteria and allowing exceptions for specific conditions.**

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Chairman Rahjes and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2111. This testimony is submitted by Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing, and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state.

KARA is a statewide agribusiness industry trade association with membership including over 700 companies across Kansas that provide agricultural goods, services, and crop consultation to Kansas farmers.

KGFA and KARA members work with farmers across the state and strongly support the goals of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in reducing irrigation demands on the stream-aquifer system, slowing aquifer declines, and restoring stream health.

House Bill 2111 would seek to amend Kansas conservation statutes to, *inter alia*, increase the acres authorized to be enrolled into CREP to 60,000 acres, up from 40,000 currently. When CREP was first adopted in 2007, the program was capped at 20,000 acres statewide over 10 counties.

Current law caps authorized acreage enrollment, per county, as "no more than 25%" of the total enrolled acreage in the state – effectively capping county enrollment at 10,000 acres. This county limiting language was agreed to with stakeholders when the initial legislation was adopted in 2007.

While we appreciate the purpose of the proposed acreage increase in targeting specific areas of the state, we stand as neutral conferees on this bill due to the effect the proposed total authorized acreage increase would have on the authorized county acreage – expanding the cap from 10,000 acres to 15,000 acres per county.

It was historically understood, and appreciated, that the enrollment of too many acres in one county could harm the agricultural sector, local tax base, and local economy of that county. Since 2007, the law has provided for both state and county enrollment caps to protect against over-enrollment in any one area.

In order to continue the protections provided in existing law, we would request the inclusion of limiting language to allow for adequate separation distances of enrolled acres within counties, or to cap the county enrollment at no more than 12,000 acres. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on this bill. We would stand for questions at the appropriate time.