



Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
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February 10, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs & General Counsel  
Re: **Joint Written Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2172, establishing the water program task force to evaluate the state's water program and funding for such program and requiring a report thereon to the legislature and the governor.**

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Chairman Rahjes and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2172. 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 Kansas farmers to provide crop inputs and receive and store raw ag commodities. As water is essential to agriculture and the growing of crops, our members have a vested interest in ensuring the future availability of ground and surface water across our state for generations to come.

House Bill 2172 proposes to establish a stakeholder task force to study and evaluate the state's water program and the necessary funding to achieve the program goals. The task force would include 29 voting members from a diverse stakeholder group, both geographically and in their specific interests in the waters of the state.

As agriculture is the largest economic sector in Kansas, and the future of agriculture depends on the availability of water, we appreciate and support the focus of this bill in evaluating the goals of the state water program and overall funding needs to achieve those goals.

Our members have historically supported the proposal to dedicate a small carve out of the existing state sales tax for the state water plan for this purpose. Agriculture currently pays directly into the state water plan fund through fees on pesticides and fertilizers, and there is not sufficient space in the market to increase those existing funding mechanisms.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment in support of this bill which would further the discussion and focus on enhanced funding for the state water plan.