

Jayne Rucker

KAAA Board Directors

620-923-5161

Dear Senator,

I am writing concerning House Bill 2050 which is to come before the Senate Agriculture Committee. I am a director, on the Kansas Agricultural Aviation Association Board, and it is the board's feeling that the current law should not be changed. At this time, commercial pesticide certification requires either a surety bond, an escrow account, a letter of credit, or liability insurance to fulfill the Board of Agriculture's financial requirements.

KAAA's understanding is that HB 2050 would eliminate all methods of financial compliance with the exception of liability insurance. There are approximately 100 members, of the KAAA, representing 90% of the certified applicators in Kansas. The KAAA opposes the changes, in HB 2050, because some of our members utilize the other methods of financial responsibility required for certification. The current law offers more flexibility for meeting the certification requirements. Many of our members, do use liability insurance. However, the KAAA does not feel liability insurance should be mandatory, nor should it be the only means of complying with commercial pesticide certification.

The KAAA is unaware of issues with other categories of pesticide certification. If there are issues, we do not feel the agricultural aviation segment should be penalized. We think the current methods, which have been in place for a very long time, have worked well. In addition to the current methods of meeting financial responsibility, there is also recourse for any damaged party through the civil or criminal courts.

The KAAA would request that your committee change the bill to reinstate the current methods of certification compliance to include a surety bond, an escrow account, a letter of credit or liability insurance for all categories. If this is not possible, we would respectfully request that alternative methods of financial requirements (surety bond, escrow account, letter of credit, or liability insurance) be allowed for aerial applicators.

Thank you very much. We appreciate your consideration on this matter. If you have any questions, my cell # is [620-923-5161](tel:620-923-5161).

Sincerely,

Jayne Rucker

KAAA Board of Directors