



**Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee  
Written Testimony in Support of SB 231  
Creating Rural Opportunity Zones  
Submitted by Ron Seeber  
on behalf of the  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, Kansas Grain and Feed  
Association, and Kansas Cooperative Council  
March 18, 2013**

Thank you Chairman Carlson, members of the House Taxation Committee, I Ron Seeber, Vice President of Government Affairs of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA). The KGFA is a voluntary state association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in the state of Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA's membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities which supply fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, seed, petroleum products and agronomic expertise to Kansas farmers. KARA's membership base also includes ag-chemical and equipment manufacturing firms, distribution firms and various other businesses associated with the retail crop production industry. I am also representing Leslie Kaufman with the Kansas Cooperative Council. The KCC is a voluntary, statewide trade association representing all forms of cooperative businesses across the state -- agricultural, utility, credit, financial, refining and consumer cooperatives.

The Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, Kansas Cooperative Council, and Kansas Grain and Feed Association enthusiastically support SB 231. Two years ago, the Governor's forward thinking proposal to bring new residents to many Kansas counties with declining populations was greatly successful. This legislation will inject a desperately needed economic boost for additional parts of our state. We urge the committee to support SB 231, expanding the Kansas Rural Opportunity Zones.