



Kansas Grain & Feed Association (KGFA)
Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)
Renew Kansas

816 SW Tyler, Topeka, Kansas 66612

March 14, 2016

TO: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
From: Randy Stookey, Vice President and General Counsel
Kansas Grain and Feed Association / Renew Kansas Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

Leslie Kaufman, President/CEO, Kansas Cooperative Council

RE: Written Testimony in Support of SB 365, establishing the Contaminated Property Redevelopment Act

Chairman Hutton and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment today in support of SB 365. This testimony is being jointly submitted on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association, the Kansas Cooperative Council, the Renew Kansas Association, and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association.

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 97% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. The KCC's membership includes farm marketing and agricultural supply cooperatives, rural electric and telecommunications companies, insurance and risk management operations, credit unions and Farm Credit system members. Renew Kansas is a voluntary trade association representing the fuel ethanol processing, storage, and transportation industry in Kansas. KARA is a voluntary trade association whose membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities supplying fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, and seed to Kansas farmers.

Our agribusiness members employ thousands of workers and contribute to the vitality of local economies all across the state. The scope of our members' business activities includes the bulk storage, handling, and transportation of myriad agricultural chemicals, fertilizers, fuel, and other such regulated chemicals. Thus, this bill is of interest to our associations and members.

Even with the consistent application of industry best management practices, reportable environmental events can occur at our facilities. Following such an event, our members may find

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it necessary to enroll into a property remediation program through our partners at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; including, programs such as the State Cooperative Program, the Voluntary Cleanup and Property Redevelopment Program, or the newly established Risk Management Program.

The Contaminated Property Redevelopment Act, established by SB 365, would create a voluntary program to help local units of government encourage property redevelopment. The program would allow a property requiring environmental remediation to be purchased or transferred, without the transferee assuming liability for the costs of remediating the property. Both the owners of such industrial properties and the transferees would benefit from the provisions of the act. Further, local units of government will find new, beneficial uses for such properties, without incurring the additional remediation expenses otherwise attached to them.

We also support the establishment of a new *Contaminated Property Redevelopment Fund* through this bill. This fund will assist municipalities in redeveloping contaminated properties through the use of federal Brownfields revolving loan funds which offer low interest loans and grants for such projects. This voluntary program benefits areas of the state where redevelopment of such properties has stalled due to a lack of available resources. The fund will allow continuation of those revitalization and remediation projects, benefiting municipalities across the state. As we do with all state funds supported through fees, we respectfully encourage the legislature to do all that is within its power to see that such dollars are used solely for their intended purpose and not swept into the state general fund.

This bill furthers our industry goal of good land stewardship, and promotes the public policy of clean soil and water, and beneficial use of land in Kansas. We, therefore, support SB 365 and would respectfully request that the Committee pass this bill out favorably without amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments, and testify in support of SB 365.

Randy E. Stookey
785.234.0461

Leslie Kaufman
785.233.4085