



Kansas Grain & Feed Association
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

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DATE: March 3, 2015

TO: Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

FROM: Ronald Seeber – Senior Vice President
Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA)
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)

Leslie Kaufman – President and CEO
Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)

RE: Written testimony in opposition to SB 462 concerning the regulation of unmanned aircraft

Chairman Ostmeyer and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing us to offer written testimony on SB 462. KGFA is a voluntary trade association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in the state of Kansas. The Kansas Cooperative Council represents all types of cooperative businesses in Kansas including agriculture marketing and supply, utilities, financial and risk management co-ops and consumer cooperatives. 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.

Unmanned aerial system technologies are key to the future of production agriculture when used appropriately and are important tools in providing a safe, abundant, affordable food supply to Kansas and the rest of the world.

We understand the desire to protect private property rights. In fact, we share some of those concerns. However, we fear that the language, as currently written, is extremely broad. It is conceivable that the legitimate uses for which our members employ drones could inadvertently run afoul of the bill, especially when working along or near field edges or when an aircraft must cross adjacent land in order to reach the property for which it is being utilized.

We instead support uniform national regulation of drones which has been established by the FAA, instead of a patchwork of laws adopted on a state-by-state basis.

Thank you for your consideration.