



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

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Jan. 27, 2016

TO: Senate Committee on Natural Resources

From: Leslie Kaufman
Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)

Randy Stookey
Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA)
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)

RE: SB 337 -- Support for the concept of strengthening penalties for failure to file water use reports (written only)

Thank you, Chairman Powell and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, for the opportunity to share our support for SB 337. I am Leslie Kaufman and I serve as the President/CEO of the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC) and I submit these comments behalf of our members and our agribusiness partners, the Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association.

The KCC represents all types of cooperative businesses in Kansas including agriculture marketing and supply, utilities, financial and insurance/risk management co-ops and consumer cooperatives. 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. 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 associations have long supported enhanced enforcement and stronger penalties for violating water law provisions. We have encouraged the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture, under various administrations, to take a more active role in overseeing water use. We think the timely filing of water use reports is important in tracking whether or not right holders are using water within the confines of their permitted allocation. Thus, we think enforcing the paperwork requirements enhances the KDA's ability to take other needed enforcement actions. As such, we ask you advance SB 337 favorably.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in favor of this measure. If you have any questions about our statement, please contact us. Thank you.

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