



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

House Committee on Commerce, Labor & Economic Development

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2168 — Creating the Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act

Submitted by

**Ron Seeber, Kansas Grain and Feed Association and
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
and on behalf of**

Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Cooperative Council

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Thank you, Chairman Mason and members of the House Commerce, Labor & Economic Development Committee, for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 2168. I am Ron Seeber, Sr. VP of Government Affairs with the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA). I submit these comments on behalf of our members and on behalf of Leslie Kaufman, President/CEO for the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC) and their members.

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 98% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA's membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities that 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. The KCC is a voluntary, statewide trade association representing all forms of cooperative businesses across the state— agricultural, utility, credit, financial, risk management, and refining cooperatives.

Growing the Kansas economy requires job creation all across our state. As associations whose membership is largely based in rural areas of our state, we do appreciate initiatives that support economic growth in rural areas. Good jobs are vital to maintaining strong, viable communities. We have supported the Rural Opportunity Zone program and expansion of that program. For us, the ad astra rural jobs program is a next step in continuing that work. We hope you and your committee will look favorable on this proposal. Thank you for your consideration

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