



KANSAS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

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March 20, 2017

To: Chairman Rick Wilborn and Members
Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Leslie Kaufman, President/CEO
Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)

RE: Written Only – Proponent HB 2153 – Fee agencies, moneys transferred to the state general fund; notification to persons paying fees that moneys have been transferred.

Chairman Wilborn and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to share our support for HB 2153. I am Leslie Kaufman and I appear today on behalf of the co-op members of the Kansas Cooperative Council. The KCC's membership includes farm marketing and ag supply cooperatives, rural electric and telecommunications companies, insurance and risk management operations, credit unions and Farm Credit system members.

Our membership pays into a variety of fee funds to be licensed, regulated or certified and the council believes we should protect the integrity of those fee funds. The KCC has longstanding policy opposing fee sweeps. We believe that fee dollars generated for specific programs should not be diverted to non-program related activities or the State General Fund. We have always urged agencies to establish fee limits that allow them to meet program requirements but avoid large fund balances that could become targets for budgetary "sweeping."

The Council strongly supports this effort to increase accountability over fees as well as flexibility in program structures that allow agencies to maximize, or even leverage fee dollars, for the good of a program and its stakeholder community.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on this bill. The Council would appreciate your favorable recommendation of HB 2153 to the full Senate. Thank you for your consideration.

Leslie Kaufman, KCC
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