



Date: January 23, 2019

To: Representative Ron Highland, Chairman
House Agriculture Committee

From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council

RE: HB 2001: Amending the Kansas agricultural remediation reimbursement program

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2001. The Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC) represents all types of cooperatively structured businesses including agriculture marketing and supply, utility, financial co-ops and consumer cooperatives. Co-ops differ from other businesses because they are member-owned and operate for the mutual benefit their members.

Cooperatives are multifaceted businesses that serve a number of roles for their members. Agriculture cooperatives often have grain, agronomy, precision ag, seed, fuels, feed and financing operations. Specifically, our grain elevator and pesticide dealer coop members pay annual fees into the Kansas agricultural remediation fund within the Kansas Department of Agriculture as a self-insurance measure to help recoup remediation clean-up expenses if and when they are incurred by our members. As other conferees have testified, this program receives no state general fund dollars and is 100% self-funded by the agribusinesses industry in Kansas.

HB 2001 does three things. First, it extends the sunset on the remediation program from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2030. It reduces the maximum fund balance from \$5 million to \$3 million, which better aligns with the applications submitted and reimbursements paid out in recent years. Last, it adjusts the fee schedule to correctly assess the segments of the industry receiving the benefits of the program.

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council, we stand in support of the Kansas agricultural remediation program and the proposed changes to the funding structure in HB 2001. Thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony. The KCC would respectfully request, that when the committee considers HB 2001 for action, you pass it favorably.

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