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Date: January 28, 2020

To: Representative Ron Highland, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee

From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council

RE: House Bill 2432, transfers to the pesticide waste disposal program

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2432. The Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC) represents all types of cooperatively structured businesses including agriculture, utility, financial and consumer cooperatives. Simply, cooperatives differ from other businesses because they are member-owned, member-controlled, democratically-governed, and operate for the mutual benefit of their members.

Specifically, agriculture cooperatives often have grain, agronomy, precision ag, seed, fuels, feed, and financing operations. Our grain elevator and pesticide dealer coop members pay annual fees into the Kansas agricultural remediation fund within the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). This fund serves 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.

The KCC supports the provisions set forth in House Bill 2432, which would allow annual transfers up to \$50,000 from the agricultural remediation fund to administer the pesticide waste disposal program within the KDA. The program was previously administered with federal grant dollars that are now expired; and **our members feel that helping pay for the safe collection and disposal of pesticide waste materials is a valuable use of their dollars.**

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council, we stand in support of House Bill 2432 and respectfully request, that when the committee considers the bill for action, you pass it favorably. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

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