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Date: February 5, 2020
To: Representative Ron Highland, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council
RE: House Bill 2463, amending Kansas pesticide law's applicator license requirements

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing us to comment on House Bill 2463. My name is Shahira Stafford, and I represent the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC). The KCC represents all types of cooperatively-structured businesses including agriculture, utility, financial, and consumer coops. Simply, cooperatives differ from other businesses because they are member-owned, member-controlled, democratically-governed, and profits are returned to our patrons.

Agricultural cooperatives often have grain, agronomy, precision ag, seed, feed, and fuel operations. Our pesticide business members are required by law to prove financial responsibility to the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) to obtain licensure. HB 2463 would remove several forms of proof accepted in current law and require only a certificate of liability insurance for all renewals after January 1, 2021.

The bill would also tighten-up the circumstances in which the Secretary may deny a license or permit to an applicant that has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony.

The KCC's official position on the bill is neutral, as the industry has no concerns with the provisions that the KDA has set forth in HB 2463. Thank you for allowing us to comment today.

Shahira Stafford
Kansas Cooperative Council
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