

**To: House Judiciary Committee, Representative Fred Patton, Chairperson**

**From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau**

**Date: January 29, 2020**

**Re: HB 2461- Written only Testimony Supporting HB 2461**

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Good morning Chairman Patton and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) in support of HB 2461. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

Kansas Farm Bureau policy generally supports limiting the use of contingency fee arrangements. This legislation is a good step in achieving that general goal as it relates to litigation brought forward by governmental entities.

Local units of government seem to be increasingly joining class action lawsuits. This activity has the potential to have the effect of making negotiations by the state attorney general's office much more difficult to settle as the Attorney General's office has described in their testimony. It is the belief of Kansas Farm Bureau that the Attorney General's office is best suited to achieve an adequate settlement for the citizens of the state of Kansas. This bill will help create a more efficient manner for Kansas citizens to be represented in class action tort cases brought forward by governmental entities.

In conclusion, KFB is supportive of HB 2461 and encourages this committee to support the bill.