



To: House Insurance Committee

From: Gary Reser, Kansas Soybean Association (KSA)

Subject: KSA Support for H.B. 2340

Date: March 14, 2019

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Taxation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today and testify on H.B. 2340.

The Kansas Soybean Association (KSA), representing Kansas soybean farmers on legislative and regulatory issues at the state and national levels, respectfully requests you vote affirmatively for H.B. 2340 and recommend it favorably for passage.

Kansas soybean farmers are assessed millions annually in property taxes to assist in the financing of schools and local government units. The property tax load on Kansas farmers has increased dramatically in recent years and has negatively impacted already extremely tight operating margins.

As a matter of fact, the property tax burden for Kansas soybean producers has become so obvious that it is reflected in a paragraph in the KSA Policy Manual that says in part, "KSA opposes full funding of schools through property taxes . . . ."

The intent of H.B. 2340 is to prohibit county treasurers from distributing any portion of taxes that exceed the previous year's taxes and are under appeal until the appeal is finalized. The bill provides a very favorable outcome for the property owner and the taxing authority. It would also establish a framework for a more accurate budget and eliminate the need to create a budget line-item for refunds to taxpayers after the appeal process.

The Committee should be lauded for considering legislation that is a remarkably sensible, practical, logical and ethical approach to publically funded budgets in Kansas.

Thank you and, once again, the KSA respectfully requests you to vote yes on H.B. 2340 and recommend it favorably for passage.