



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
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January 22, 2020

To: Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
From: Randy E. Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Re: **Joint Proponent Oral Testimony on Senate Bill 264, providing for removal of person from county appraiser eligibility list due to termination in one or more counties and notification when person no longer holds office of appraiser**

Chairman Tyson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 264. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association.

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA is an agribusiness industry trade association with membership of over 700 companies across Kansas. Renew Kansas Biofuels Association is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels industry.

Across Kansas, our member grain elevators, biofuel processing plants, and agribusiness facilities pay millions of dollars annually in property taxes that help support schools and local government. The ability of our members to operate a competitive or profitable business is often determined by the amount of fixed costs they must pay, such as property taxes. In recent years, the property tax burden on our members has grown exponentially through increases in property valuations.

We understand the intent of Senate Bill 264 is to tighten the oversight of the approved list of county appraisers by the Property Valuation Division (PVD) of the Kansas Dept. of Revenue. County appraisers across the state hold an important and demanding position. Because their work product directly affects the tax bills of each property tax payer, the quality of their individual work is critical.

Under Kansas law, PVD is tasked with ensuring that county appraisers are trained and competent in their field, and to remove appraisers from the list of approved appraisers, upon certain cause. This bill would provide PVD with additional authority to exercise its oversight responsibilities.

The changes set forth in this bill represent good public policy and stand to protect taxpayers. For that reason, we stand in support of this bill. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 264, and we would stand for questions at the appropriate time.