



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
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March 15, 2023

To: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, KGFA, KARA
Re: **Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2446, prohibiting cities and counties from regulating plastic and other containers designed for the consumption, transportation, or protection of merchandise.**

Chairman Carpenter and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2446. This testimony is submitted on behalf of Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA) and Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA).

KARA is an agribusiness industry trade association whose membership includes more than 700 companies across Kansas. KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing, and shipping industry in Kansas. Most grain facilities also provide agricultural retail services.

Located across our state, our member agribusinesses work with Kansas farmers by providing agricultural inputs and services that assist with growing agricultural commodities. Our industry contributes greatly to the Kansas economy and provides gainful employment for thousands of Kansans.

Agribusiness is a highly regulated industry. The ability of our industry to operate a competitive business is often determined by the amount of their overhead costs, such as taxes and administrative expenses.

HB 2446 would prohibit municipalities from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, resolution or regulation that restricts, taxes, prohibits, or otherwise regulates the use, disposition, or sale of auxiliary containers. The bill includes the following in its definition of an auxiliary container: containers, bottles, or other packaging made of cloth, paper, plastic, foamed plastic, expanded plastic, cardboard, corrugated material, aluminum, glass, postconsumer recycled material or similar coated or laminated material designed for the consumption, transportation or protection of merchandise at a manufacturing, distribution or processing facility or a food service or retail establishment. As written, the bill would protect the continued use of 2.5-gallon plastic containers, and other forms of packaging, commonly used in our industry.

The legislation is reasonable, and in some instances necessary, for our industry. For this reason, we support this legislation as sound public policy for Kansas industry and commerce.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2446. We would respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.