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Proponent Testimony in Support of HB2763: Providing an income tax credit for the sale and distribution of ethanol blends for motor vehicle fuels.

House Taxation Committee, March 12, 2024

Brett Grauerholz, Farmer, Republic, KS

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, my name is Brett Grauerholz, a 5th generation farmer in North-Central Kansas and South-Central Nebraska. I also serve as the Secretary of the Kansas Corn Growers Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of HB 2763 and the ethanol industry.

The past two years have brought about numerous challenges on our farm with yields far below normal. Coupled with skyrocketing inflation, increased input prices, interest rates and the prospect for below average prices, all the help we can get is much appreciated. Numerous studies have shown that if it weren't for ethanol, corn prices would be almost \$1.00 per bushel lower than current levels. Our farm is proud to grow crops that feed consumers across the world as well as provide a more economical, environmentally friendly fuel for the consumer. This legislation would help spread these benefits to consumers across the state and provide much needed support to farm operations. Agriculture serves as one if not the largest driving force for many of Kansas' local communities, schools, and small businesses. Ethanol gives our farm operation the ability to diversify the uses of the crops we produce, which in turn allows for a positive outlook to continue the operation in our family and support our local businesses.

As part of my volunteer role with Kansas Corn, I serve on the Production and Technology Access Committee for the National Corn Growers Association. We strive to ensure that farmers have access to the needed resources to continue to grow more crops, on fewer acres of land, using less inputs to feed, clothe and fuel a growing population around the world. Our partners in the ethanol industry have the same environmental and economic efficiency goals to provide an even cleaner burning, cost-effective fuel to consumers around the world.

HB 2763 will serve as a catalyst to expand offerings of higher-level blends of ethanol across the state, benefiting our fuel retailers, agriculture producers and most importantly, the Kansas consumer. I respectfully ask you to favorably pass this legislation.

Thank you for letting me tell a small part of my story while providing this testimony and I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Brett Grauerholz
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