



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

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President & General Counsel, Renew Kansas, KGFA, KARA
Re: Joint, Written, Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2302, modifying the distribution of moneys into the state water plan fund, creating the water technical assistance fund and the water projects grant fund for water-related infrastructure projects and distributing a portion of the revenue from the sales and compensating use tax to the state water plan fund.

Chairman Kerschen and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2302. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association (Renew Kansas).

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 whose membership includes over 700 companies across Kansas. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels processing industry.

Our member grain elevators, biofuel processing plants, and agribusiness facilities contribute to the Kansas agricultural industry – our state's single largest economic driver. Our member companies provide gainful employment and high paying careers for thousands of Kansans across the state. These industries also function as good corporate citizens, paying millions of dollars in income taxes and property taxes annually which support schools and local government.

House Bill 2302 represents sound public policy by establishing a new funding mechanism from the state sales tax, a method that has been successfully adopted by neighboring states. This new funding approach will provide necessary public investment in conservation of our state's water resources and water infrastructure. This new funding stream offered by the bill will enable Kansans, and the agricultural sector, to implement the conservation practices necessary to extend the life of Kansas groundwater resources.

This public investment is necessary for the health and continuation of rural communities and the agricultural industry for decades to come. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2302 which passed the House on a bipartisan vote of 119-3.

We respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.