

**Testimony in Support of HB 2255
to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
By Kelsey Olson, Deputy Secretary
Kansas Department of Agriculture
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Good afternoon, Chairman Rahjes and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2255. My name is Kelsey Olson, and I am the Deputy Secretary for the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Kansans from across the state rely on accurate weighing and measuring devices in countless situations. Whether it's ensuring that the apples you pick up at the grocery store weigh exactly what you're paying for or trusting that the fuel pump at the gas station is dispensing the correct amount of gas, these devices play a critical role in protecting consumers. From the checkout counter to the post office, consumers expect fairness and precision. To continue safeguarding Kansans from errors or fraud in these transactions, it's essential that our regulatory systems keep pace with modern standards. By updating and modernizing the Weights and Measures Program, KDA will be better equipped to meet the needs of today's consumers and ensure fairness in every transaction.

The KDA Weights and Measures Program is a regulatory program that ensures the accuracy of commercial "weighing and measuring devices," such as scales and fuel pumps. This program is an essential element of consumer protection and is one of the oldest government functions, being mentioned in both the Articles of Confederation and the United States Constitution.

The amendments to the language have two primary purposes. The first is to update the fees charged by KDA's metrology laboratory for requested services such as calibrating weight, measurement and volume standard test kits. Our current fees are significantly lower than those of most other National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)-certified metrology laboratories; in fact, several of our fees are the lowest in the region and some are even the lowest in the nation. As a result, the metrology laboratory continues to have a six- to eight-month lead time in scheduling customers due to the high demand for our low-priced service. These amendments will align our metrology laboratory's fees with those of other states' laboratories, which will help to reverse revenue losses, cover increasing overhead costs, and improve our ability to serve Kansas consumers in a timely manner.

The other key purpose of this bill is to bring electric vehicle service equipment under the purview of the Act to ensure uniform standards and provide consumer protection in this growing area. At the federal level, NIST has discussed how to evolve and keep up with changing trends such as electrical vehicles. As a result of this work, NIST has introduced standards for uniform testing and calibration of electric vehicle meters which Kansas will be responsible for adopting. The changes proposed in this bill authorize KDA to apply uniform standards and testing for the growing number of public electric vehicle charging stations

and are the first step to ensuring consumer confidence for the metered services. Whether a consumer's vehicle relies on traditional combustible fuels or electric power, Kansans have a right to know that they are being charged fairly.

Notably there are many proposed changes in relation to the written organization and structure of the statutes that govern this essential state function. The agency is asking for these changes so that there is one standard set of definitions throughout the entirety of this section of statute. The definitions section consolidates duplicative and sometimes contradictory or inconsistent sections, which will provide for more efficient administrative enforcement and improve clarity and transparency to the regulated community and the public.

The Weights and Measures Program is crucial to consumer protection, and the amendments in the bill honor its longstanding role while adapting the program to meet the evolving needs of consumers and businesses. By streamlining the processes and updating the fees and coverage areas, HB 2255 allows us to continue fulfilling our commitment to fairness and accuracy while ensuring that Kansas' regulatory system remains competitive, efficient, and responsive to the needs of today's economy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2255. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.