



Chair Tarwater and Members of the Committee:

We appreciate this opportunity to submit written proponent testimony for HB 2340, which exempts certain Johnson County property owners from cleanup liabilities for pre-2005 pesticide applications by the U.S. Army. We hold the following position on HB 2340:

1. HB 2340 Provides Regulatory Clarity and Protects Private Investment
2. Inconsistent and Arbitrary Enforcement Undermines Fairness
3. House Bill 2340 Removes an Unnecessary Barrier to Economic Development

HB 2340 Provides Regulatory Clarity and Protects Private Investment

Development at Astra Enterprise Park, the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, has been obstructed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s costly and arbitrary mandates regarding historic pesticide use. These pesticides—Aldrin, Dieldrin, Chlordane, and Heptachlor—were lawfully applied by the United States Army to control termites. Federal law specifically exempts these pesticides from regulation when used in this manner. Despite this, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment demands extensive remediation, costing over \$25 million and stalling progress at the site.

Inconsistent and Arbitrary Enforcement Undermines Fairness

The same pesticides were used across Kansas, including in hundreds of homes in Northeast Johnson County and at Clear View City, a nearby redevelopment project. However, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has not imposed similar cleanup requirements in these locations. Sunflower is one of only three places in Kansas where such mandates have been enforced, despite no legal authority to do so. This selective regulation creates an uneven playing field for developers and hinders economic growth.

House Bill 2340 Removes an Unnecessary Barrier to Economic Development

Astra Enterprise Park has the potential to be a key driver of growth and opportunity in Johnson County. House Bill 2340 ensures that Kansas law aligns with federal standards and removes unnecessary regulatory barriers. It provides clarity and fairness for property owners, enabling this important project to proceed and encouraging future investment in the state.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to pass HB 2340.