



Kansas Grain & Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

February 17, 2025

To: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel
Re: **Written Opposition Testimony to HB 2279, exempting department of wildlife and parks from proposed rule and regulation restrictions on implementation and compliance cost**

Chairman Kessler and members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2279. This testimony is submitted by Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA).

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 a statewide agribusiness industry trade association with membership including over 700 companies across Kansas that provide agricultural goods, services, and crop consultation to Kansas farmers.

In our work with Kansas farmers to provide crop inputs and receive and store raw ag commodities, KGFA and KARA members are heavily regulated by state agencies and are required to maintain various occupational licenses and certifications.

Last year, legislation was passed that placed additional requirements on certain proposed regulations that would place a significant cost on Kansas residents, industry, and others. The legislation simply created additional legislative steps before agencies could adopt regulations with an estimated economic impact of more than \$1 million over the initial five years.

The previous legislation intentionally placed additional legislative oversight on executive branch agencies, that are regulatory in nature, when adopting new and costly regulations. Since the law was passed, many state agencies have complied with the law and adopted new regulations.

House Bill 2279 seeks to remove the new procedural requirements for one agency - the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Passage of HB 2279 would reverse the purpose and effect of the 2024 legislation.

While the bill is limited to one agency, it would set a precedent, and it would only be a matter of time before every other state regulatory agency would seek to be exempted as well – essentially overriding the 2024 legislation.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment in opposition to HB 2279. The bill is unnecessary, would weaken the previous legislation, and would set a harmful precedent for other state agencies. For the reasons stated, we strongly oppose the bill and would ask the committee to take no further action.