

**Testimony by Charlie Hunt with the Johnson County Department of Health &
Environment (JCDHE) to Senate Committee on Commerce
Written Opponent for HB 2340 – March 11, 2025**

Chairman Alley and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2340, a bill which provides an exemption from remediation costs or other liability from prior commercial pesticide application for owners of property in Johnson County previously owned by the U.S. Army. JCDHE's mission is to promote and protect the health and environment for all who live, work and play in Johnson County.

Protecting the health and safety of the public is a core governmental function and should take primary consideration here. This amended bill does recognize the need to provide residentially zoned parcels a higher standard of remediation; however, this still leaves some potentially commercially zoned developments vulnerable to higher health risks. Childcare facilities, schools, and churches are possible developments on commercially zoned parcels that would be at risk of unhealthy exposure.

Revising this bill to protect children may be possible, but it is not as simple as zoning language. We want to see guarantees that no use that expects children to be on-site (e.g., childcare facilities, playgrounds, schools, etc.) is allowable, to reduce risk to children to potential exposure pathways. We are unsure whether the bill can be narrowly tailored to prohibit these uses, but, if possible, it would remove our opposition to the legislation.

As the bill presently stands, JCDHE asks that the committee not recommend HB 2340 favorably for passage.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hunt, Director
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