



**Kansas Grain & Feed Association  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association**

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**January 25, 2012**

**To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**  
**From: Randy E. Stookey, Vice President and General Counsel**  
**Kansas Grain & Feed Association / Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association**

**Re: Testimony on HB 2503 – Agriculture Boards and Advisory Bodies**

Chairman Powell and members of the Committee,

I am Randy Stookey, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA). The KGFA is a voluntary state association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum 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's membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities which supply fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, seed, petroleum products and agronomic expertise to Kansas farmers. KARA's membership includes ag-chemical and equipment manufacturing firms, distribution firms and various other businesses associated with the retail crop production industry.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment in support of HB 2503. Section 1 of HB 2503, specifically, seeks to amend KSA 2-3709, pertaining to the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board (KARB). The KARB administers the Ag-chemical remediation reimbursement program, which reimburses eligible persons and companies for expenses incurred while performing remediation actions either ordered or approved by KDHE.

Members of our Associations represent agricultural businesses in Kansas who both pay into the fund (as custom fertilizer blenders, retailers of pesticide and fertilizer products, grain storage, and pesticide business licensees), and are potential recipients from the fund for remediation purposes.

Section 1 of HB 2503 seeks to amend KSA 2-3709 in order to allow Board nominees to be seated by direct appointment of the Governor without Senate confirmation. The intent is to encourage qualified candidates to apply for KARB positions by making the process a simpler and quicker process that is a less expensive for both the appointees and the State. Additionally, we have received comments from current Board members that the criminal background check is unnecessary and overly burdensome ,and that interviews with friends and family members are personally invasive.

Other Boards and commissions do not require Senate confirmation, such as the Board of Healing Arts, and we would suggest that the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board should be treated consistently. I thank you for your time and would be happy to stand for questions.