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House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources January 24, 2012

HB 2503 Section 1 - Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board (KARB) appointments.

Thank you, Chairman Powell and members of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee for the opportunity to comment on behalf of our members regarding section 1 of HB 2503. I am Leslie Kaufman and I serve as President/CEO of the Kansas Cooperative Council.

The Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC) represents all forms of cooperative businesses across the state -- agricultural, utility, credit, financial and consumer cooperatives. One of our most numerous member segments is our grain elevator/farm supply cooperative sector. These cooperative ag retailers are in the business of handling and storing grain and providing crop protection products and services.

Our ag cooperative members strongly support the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board (KARB). This industry-funded program provides reimbursement for addressing certain environmental concerns.

Currently, members of KARB are appointed by the Governor then subject to the full Senate confirmation process. Section 1 of HB 2503 amends this process so that members are directly appointed by the Governor. These changes allow for a more streamlined procedure and lessen the paperwork burden on would-be appointees. It is our hope that such changes will also lead to even more ag industry representatives being willing to serve as a KARB members.

As such, if the committee takes action on this proposal, we respectfully request favorable consideration of Section 1. We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure. If you have any questions regarding our testimony, please feel free to contact me at 785-220-4068.