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Date: February 4, 2021  
To: Representative Ken Rahjes, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee  
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council  
**RE: Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2155**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC), thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 2155. The KCC is a statewide association that works on behalf of all types of cooperatively structured businesses in Kansas. The industries organized as cooperatives are vast, including agriculture, utility, financial and insurance.

The majority of the KCC's members are agricultural retail cooperatives that handle grain, fertilizer, agronomy, seed, and fuel operations regulated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Environmental Remediation. **House Bill 2155 does several things, but most importantly lessens the onerous burden on our members by establishing consistency between state and federal reporting requirements when a water or soil pollutant release has occurred.** This will eliminate confusion and help ensure that the industry is complying to the requirements set forth by the KDHE responsibly. Agricultural cooperatives take risk to the human and environmental health of their communities seriously and understand the need for clarifying KDHE's response processes set forth in this bill.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 2155, and we respectfully ask for your support.