



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
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February 13, 2023

To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President & General Counsel, Renew Kansas, KGFA, KARA
Re: **Joint, Written, Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2292, enacting the Kansas apprenticeship tax credit act to encourage development of apprenticeship programs in Kansas**

Chairman Tarwater and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2292. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association (Renew Kansas).

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 an agribusiness industry trade association whose membership includes over 700 companies across Kansas. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels processing industry.

Our member grain elevators, biofuel processing plants, and agribusiness facilities contribute to the Kansas economy and provide gainful employment and high paying careers for thousands of Kansans across the state. These industries also function as good corporate citizens, paying millions of dollars in income taxes and property taxes annually which support schools and local government.

There is on-going demand in the agribusiness industry for a trained and skilled labor force. Those skills and training are often provided by on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs. As our industry facilities are most often located in rural areas of the state, with declining populations and low levels of unemployment, it is generally difficult to find and recruit the employees needed to fully staff our operations.

Our members support efforts - such as House Bill 2292 - which promote a ready workforce with the necessary skills and competency to participate in the marketplace. We support vocational and technical training programs, and apprenticeship programs, which introduce people to these vocational opportunities.

House Bill 2292 represents sound public policy for promoting a ready workforce and encourages participation in vocational training and apprenticeship programs by providing financial assistance for those programs. For these reasons, we stand in strong support of the bill.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2292. We respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.