



Kansas Grain & Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association

March 9, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Commerce
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel
Re: **Joint, Written, Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2292, enacting the Kansas apprenticeship tax credit act to encourage development of apprenticeship programs**

Chair Erickson and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2292. This testimony is submitted jointly by the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association.

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing, and shipping industry in Kansas, and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA is a trade association of over 700 agribusiness firms that supply fertilizers, crop protection products, seed, and agronomic services to Kansas farmers. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels industry.

Our member grain elevators, biofuel processing plants, and agribusiness facilities contribute to the Kansas economy and provide gainful employment and high paying careers to 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 continuing 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 can be very difficult to find and recruit the number of employees needed to fully staff our operations.

Members of our organizations support efforts - such as House Bill 2292 - that 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 beneficial vocational opportunities and train them for promising careers.

House Bill 2292 represents sound public policy for promoting a ready workforce in agriculture and encourages participation in vocational training and apprenticeship programs by providing financial assistance to offset the administrative costs incurred in offering such programs.

For these reasons, we stand in strong support of the bill which passed the House on a vote of 115-7. 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.