



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
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To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Date: January 29, 2020
RE: **Proponent, Joint Testimony on HB 2461, enacting the public litigation coordination act to restrict contracts by public entities for legal services on a contingent fee basis.**

Chairman Patton and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2461. 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 a state-wide agribusiness industry association with over 700 members companies. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels industry.

We understand the intent of House Bill 2461 is to allow the state to exercise greater control and management of large tort litigation actions where local units of government might become plaintiffs on a contingent fee basis. The bill would increase the state's ability to coordinate such litigation on a more comprehensive level, rather than the current practice of allowing each subordinate unit of government to enter into independent lawsuits. Such unorganized broad litigation schemes, at multiple levels of government, does not provide for efficient or cost-effective access to legal recovery by the citizens of the state as a whole.

This bill represents good public policy. The bill increases the state's ability to more quickly and efficiently reach a global settlement by consolidating and coordinating litigation at the state level. Such a coordinated effort stands to decrease overall legal costs to the state, and optimize citizens' shared recovery. For this reason, the associations jointly support this bill.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2461. We respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.