



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
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March 17, 2021

To: House Committee on Local Government
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Re: **Joint, Written, Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 118, relating to the dissolution of special districts and assumption of responsibilities by cities or counties**

Chairman Thompson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 118. 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.

Across Kansas, our member grain elevators, biofuel processing plants, and agribusiness facilities add to the Kansas economy and provide gainful employment for thousands of Kansans. These industries also function as good corporate citizens, paying millions of dollars annually in property taxes that help support schools, and state and local government. However, the ability of our members to operate a competitive or profitable business is often dependent upon the amount of fixed costs they must cover.

Our members are often active participants in their local governments, and support the essential functions and necessary services they provide. Our members also support the prudent use of government resources, and promote reasonable efforts to find efficiencies within government to reduce the associated costs in providing those services.

We appreciate the intent of Senate Bill 118 to establish a new and innovative procedure to allow a city to provide for the voluntary dissolution of a special district within that city, following a public hearing.

As Senate Bill 118 promotes efficiency in layered government, and represents sound public policy for reducing the scope and costs of local government, we stand in strong support of the bill.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 118. We respectfully request that this committee pass the bill out favorably.