



Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Soybean Association
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers

To: House Committee on Agriculture
Representative Ken Rahjes, Chair

From: Kansas Corn Growers Association, Kansas Soybean Association, Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association and Kansas Association of Wheat Growers

Re: **Support for HB 2477, AN ACT concerning agriculture; relating to environmental remediation; increasing the maximum reimbursement from the Kansas agricultural remediation fund from \$200,000 to \$300,000 for an eligible person and from \$400,000 to \$600,000 when both a buyer and a seller or a lessee and a lessor are responsible for remediation; increasing the amount available to the Kansas agricultural remediation board for administrative overhead expenses from \$150,000 to \$175,000; amending K.S.A. 2-3708 and 2-3710 and repealing the existing sections.**

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Thank you, Chairman Rahjes and members of the committee for the opportunity to address the Kansas commodity organization's views on HB 2477. KCGA represents more than 1,100 members on state and national legislative and regulatory issues and actively works with other organizations to maximize the voice of Kansas corn producers. The Kansas Association of Wheat Growers is a member-governed organization representing wheat growers in planning legislation, advising government and international agencies on matters affecting wheat and providing grass-roots leadership to the U.S. wheat industry. The Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association gives growers a voice in legislative, regulatory and industry affairs through efforts funded through membership dues. The Kansas Soybean Association is the voice and advocate for soybean farmers on local, state, national and international issues of importance.

Our organizations represent members that are often either stakeholders in agriculture retailers and grain elevators, or customers of one. Therefore, it is in the best interest of our organizations to ensure that these industries are healthy and that existing public law is updated to be most effective.

The Kansas commodity organizations support HB 2477. Since 2001, the agriculture retail and grain elevator industries have paid into the Ag Chemical Remediation Fund and Program, which acts as a form of self-insurance for the industry to help them clean up ag chemicals like

pesticides or nitrate and phosphorus fertilizers. These industries need the Fund as insurance will not cover these projects and they tend to be large and expensive. The current program allows for reimbursement of costs up to \$200,000 per site. HB 2477 would increase this maximum reimbursement allowance to \$300,000 per site.

This bill would provide numerous benefits to the agriculture industry and the surrounding community, two of which have direct links to our represented farmers. First, these projects are extremely expensive. Projects that are more expensive than the cap directly reduce the bottom line of agriculture retail and grain companies, which reduces the patronage. Secondly, cleaning up sites that are contaminated with chemicals is in the best interest of the whole community. These funds will be invested into making their communities a safer and better place to live.

In conclusion, the Kansas commodity organizations continue our longstanding commitment to the health of the agriculture industry, of which agriculture retailers and grain elevators are an essential part. This bill would provide significant relief to our partners as they would be able to better withstand costly projects and complete the projects using the enhanced reimbursement. We encourage the committee to favorably pass this important piece of legislation.