

KANSAS AGRICULTURAL AVIATION ASSOCIATION

Steve Hitchcock – Government Affairs

HB 2607 Proponent

February 1, 2024

Chairman Rahjes and Committee:

The KAAA is pleased to appear today in support of HB 2607 as the KDA begins the process of updating the Kansas Pesticide Law. We look forward to providing our perspective and specialized knowledge in the legislative, and rules and regs processes, going forward. HB 2607 addresses several of the issues raised by changes in technology and business practices over the past few years, as well as addressing the requirements mandated by the EPA.

A key provision, from our perspective, is the establishment of the *aerial pest control* category for certification. We are confident that this addition will provide a mechanism to facilitate reciprocity with surrounding states for needed aerial application services provided in a timely manner by applicators from Kansas and surrounding states that have relevant skills, knowledge, and certifications to serve the agricultural community.

We look forward to providing input to KDA in the rules and regs process for the aerial category to help shape processes, criteria, and curricula that will make training and continuing education requirements relevant, useful and equitable for a category that will include sectors based on both well-established and emerging technologies.

The integration of unmanned aerial systems into the regulatory framework is a challenge and an opportunity that this new category has the potential to address. The statutory and regulatory structure established in the next few months will be critical to the successful, and safe, integration of this new technology into the Kansas agricultural landscape.

Two general modifications to the Kansas Pesticide Law also have our attention. Making the “proof of financial responsibility” requirement fulfilled by

certificate of insurance and eliminating escrow, letter of credit, and bond options is a change we see as reflecting current practices and no longer see retaining those options as a priority. The updating and systematizing of the “statement of service” required elements are changes that we see as responsive to technological changes in reporting and billing technology and do support them.

Again, we look forward to participating in the crafting and implementing of the new Kansas Pesticide Law.