



Date: February 1, 2024  
To: Chairman Ken Rahjes, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council  
**RE: Proponent Testimony on HB 2607**

Chairman Rahjes and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Cooperative Council (Co-op Council) to submit comments in support of House Bill 2607. Formed in 1944, the Co-op Council is a voluntary trade association representing all forms of cooperatively structured business in Kansas. Our purpose is to further the understanding of cooperative principals, methods of doing business, and the impact co-ops have on our state's rural economy.

House Bill 2607 amends the Kansas pesticide law to expand the applicability of civil and criminal penalties and update requirements for training and supervision, proof of financial responsibility, pesticide applications in the sodium cyanide predator control category, and record retention by government agencies.

In 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized stronger standards for people who use restricted use pesticides (RUPs). The revisions to the Certification of Pesticide Applicators (CPA) rule help ensure RUPs are used safely and reduce the likelihood of misapplication of RUPs.

The Co-op Council understands the Kansas Department of Agriculture's requirement to have a state plan approved by the EPA that complies with those federal standards. While this bill places additional requirements on our members who are commercially licensed applicators, it's important to our industry that Kansas retains state primacy over RUPs.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support, and we respectfully ask that you advance House Bill 2607 at the appropriate time.