



**January 21, 2024**

Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

**KSCGA Support for House Bill 2254 - Recognition of Agritourism as Agriculture**

Senator Tyson and Committee Members,

My name is Scott Thellman, and I am the President of the Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association (KSCGA). I am writing today to express **KSCGA's strong support for House Bill 2254**, which amends the definition of land devoted to agricultural use for property tax purposes to include properties used as part of registered agritourism activities.

The Kansas Specialty Crops Growers Association is an organization representing over 150+ Kansas specialty crop producers, both large and small, across the Great State of Kansas – advocating to advance our state's specialty crop industry, marketing opportunities, and grower participation in our local food systems. KSCGA is focused on creating a network of growers equipped with the resources, education, and abilities to increase their operations' sustainability, production capabilities, and profitability.

As for myself, I am a first generation young farmer producing traditional row crops, hay, specialty crops, and bedding plants through a diverse array of agricultural enterprises located in Douglas County, Kansas. One of those enterprises includes Juniper Hill Farm & Table, a registered agritourism business hosting weekly farm to table pizza nights, chefs dinners and events throughout our growing season that highlight locally sourced ingredients and the experience and enjoyment that comes from stepping foot on a farm.

As an organization of specialty crop growers, **we have embraced agritourism as a unique and essential avenue for agricultural producers in connecting with our communities, while also showcasing our farm raised products and sustaining our livelihoods.** Agritourism, which encompasses activities such as farm tours, direct to consumer sales, hosting of on farm events and educational programs is a vital component of many of our members' agricultural operations while also serving as a benefit to our local communities. We believe that the State of Kansas should formally recognize agritourism as a legitimate type of agricultural use and consequently tax this use appropriately as an agricultural use.

House Bill 2254, having successfully passed in both the Kansas House and Senate last year, validates the importance of these activities and highlights our state's forward thinking agritourism producers as the agriculturalists they are. The bill will also importantly help define agritourism as an agricultural pursuit, thereby creating a fair and supportive tax framework. This recognition is key in helping agrotourism and agriculturists across our great state continue to produce, prosper, and meaningfully to provide for Kansas and its communities. Thank you for supporting House Bill 2254.

Regards,

Scott Thellman, President  
Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association  
[www.kscga.org](http://www.kscga.org)