

PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE on AGRICULTURE

RE: HB 2049

March 19, 2013
Topeka, Kansas

Written testimony provided by:
Brad Harrelson
Assistant Director
KFB Governmental Relations

Chairman Love, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to share the policy of our members. I am Brad Harrelson, Assistant Director — Governmental Relations for Kansas Farm Bureau. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 40,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

Kansas Farm Bureau is supportive of the Kansas Department of Agriculture and believes the agency should be a strong and vigorous advocate for production agriculture. Furthermore, we understand the need for effective regulatory programs provided primarily for the protection of the general public. Because the citizens of Kansas are beneficiaries of these regulatory programs it is appropriate that significant funding should come from state general funds.

Kansas farmers and ranchers also acknowledge that the industry shares a partnership role with the department in the administration of the programs being considered under this proposed legislation. As such, they are willing to accept some reasonable user fees.

Clearly the state has an interest and an obligation to support these programs. We encourage the legislature to recognize the importance of production agriculture and prioritize Kansas Department of Agriculture programs and increase SGF funding so it can effectively meet their statutory requirements. A very important component of

determining priorities is a periodic review. The bill before you could potentially eliminate that statutory requirement and break the promise to industry made in 2009.

We simply ask that a reasonable "sunset provision" be maintained in statute so the Legislature, the Department, and the industry has an expectation that programs and associated fees are appropriate and necessary. Kansas Farm Bureau opposes the elimination of a sunset provision originally contained in HB 2049. We appreciate House efforts to preserve this periodic review and recommend this committee do the same.

Should you decide to work HB 2049 we would respectfully ask that you leave intact a reasonable sunset provision of five years. Thank you, once again, for the opportunity to share the policy of our members. KFB stands ready to assist you as you consider this measure. Thank you.