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**Testimony in Support of SB 19  
The House Judiciary Committee  
By Robert Large, Chief Legal Counsel  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
March 14, 2016**

Chairman Barker and members of the committee, the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 19, creating an e-filing mechanism for cases proceeding under the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act (KAPA). This bill represents an important and timely step toward increased efficiency among administrative agencies. Even more importantly, it provides more ease of access to members of the public who appear before agencies and the Office of Administrative Hearings.

One of the primary purposes of KAPA is to create standards for how the executive branch of government takes action implementing state law that could affect a person's private interests. The act creates a forum for individuals to have access to government, and creates procedural due process so that the executive branch is held accountable for state action.

The KDA licenses thousands of Kansas businesses, ranging from food trucks to feedlots. With this large volume of licensees comes the responsibility of efficiently monitoring compliance with state law and regulatory requirements, which can include legal action. The KDA processes hundreds of cases per year and the addition of e-filing and e-service to our day-to-day activities would provide a welcomed increase in efficiency, and should reduce administrative costs.

Our interaction with respondents in these cases frequently involves pro se (unrepresented) individuals. Providing electronic access to our proceedings should have a positive impact on those individuals' level of participation, all while making it easier for the agency to do business and fulfill its mission.

With the modernization of our state's court system in implementing e-filing and e-service, it is only natural that the next step should include administrative proceedings. Taking advantage of available technology would provide both cost and administrative efficiencies, and would improve the integrity of our proceedings. We thank the committee for considering this very important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this bill.