

To: House Agriculture Committee, Representative Ron Highland, Chairperson

From: Ryan Flickner, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: February 13, 2019

Re: SB 2173- Written only Testimony Supporting HB 2173

Good morning Chairman Highland and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) in support of HB 2173. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has adopted a policy supporting the production, processing, commercialization and utilization of industrial hemp. KFB supports this national policy.

KFB has been involved with many initiatives to grow the Kansas agricultural sector and the overall economy. We have also been actively engaged in the Governor's Water Vision which seeks to educate all Kansans on the value of water and encourage best management practices for use of water. It is our understanding that industrial hemp may be a crop that provides producers with a reasonable economic income and uses less water and agricultural input products than some of the current commercially viable crops grown in Kansas today. We need statistically proven research to validate the benefits and costs of industrial hemp production in Kansas. We also need good data on marketing and value added end uses of industrial hemp. With this type of data, producers may be willing to explore and incorporate industrial hemp in their operations. KFB supported legislation last year which authorized the Kansas Department of Agriculture and Kansas regent's universities to conduct the needed research.

We are hopeful, that the legislature will view this 2019 legislation as an opportunity to further advance yet another agricultural product, which can create value added products that may help grow our economy and make use of a renewable fiber resource. This bill will modernize current state law to reflect the opportunities presented in the 2018 Farm Bill, enacted into law at the federal level in December of 2018. To that end, we believe the bill as introduced stands alone on its merits and should not be used to further conversations or debate relating to promotion, growth, or legalities of products or byproducts that have higher amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) than industrial hemp at 0.3 percent or less. Additionally, like the bill, KFB policy does not support legislation which violates federal law. For these reasons, we ask your support for HB 2173.