

KANSAS AGRICULTURAL AVIATION ASSOCIATION

Steve Hitchcock – Government Affairs

HB 2607 Proponent – Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

March 7, 2024

Chairman Peck and Committee:

The KAAA is pleased to support HB 2607, as amended, as the KDA begins the process of updating the Kansas Pesticide Law. We look forward to providing our perspective and specialized knowledge in the legislative – and rules and regs processes going forward. HB 2607 addresses several of the issues raised by changes in technology and business practices over the past few years, as well as addressing the requirements mandated by the EPA.

A key provision, from our perspective, is the establishment of the *aerial pest control* category for certification of all aerial application technologies. We are confident that this addition will provide a mechanism to facilitate reciprocity with surrounding states for needed aerial application services provided in a timely manner by Applicators from Kansas and surrounding states that have relevant skills, knowledge, and certifications to serve the agricultural community.

We look forward to providing input to KDA in the rules and regs process for the aerial category to help shape processes, criteria, and curricula that will make training and continuing education requirements relevant, useful, and equitable for a category that will include sectors based on both well-established and emerging technologies.

The integration of unmanned aerial systems into the regulatory framework is a challenge and an opportunity that this new *aerial* category has the potential – and the responsibility – to address. The statutory and regulatory structure established in the next few months will be critical to the successful, and safe, integration of this new technology into the Kansas agricultural landscape.

Once again, the Kansas Agricultural Aviation Association is pleased to support HB 2607, as amended. Thank you.