



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

715 SW 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612
785-272-2585 • www.kansascounties.org

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
January 24, 2024
HB 2254

Kansas Association of Counties
Opponent Testimony – Written Only

Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer opponent testimony on HB 2254, which would classify all land used for agro-tourism as land devoted to agricultural use.

KAC has some concerns about classifying agro-tourism land as land devoted to agricultural use for reasons beyond taxation. Under K.S.A. 19-2921, zoning regulations do not apply to land devoted to agricultural use. KAC does not advocate that this change, as zoning regulations on land dedicated to agricultural use are not necessary, and farm buildings used for the storage of equipment, or for housing cattle also do not require building code regulations.

Zoning regulations and their accompanying building codes are important, however, for operating stores, event venues and other facilities that will be frequented not only by farm workers, but by the public. Having the necessary number of exits is critical if an emergency requires prompt evacuation of a facility. Ensuring that these facilities are subject to the same requirements as a similar venue not engaged in agro-tourism is important for fairness as well. Passage of this bill in its current form could create dangerous situations for these small businesses, where a single emergency could not only cause a loss of life, but also destroy a small business in the community.

KAC would therefore oppose the passage of HB 2254 in its current form. Thank you for the opportunity to present this important perspective on this legislation.

Jay Hall
Deputy Director and General Counsel
Kansas Association of Counties
hall@kansascounties.org
(785)272-2585