

Kansas Agricultural Aviation Association
Views on HB2050

Steve Hitchcock, KAAA Government Affairs
(816)726-2834

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Hearing
February 13, 2013

Members of the Committee:

Aerial applicators are active in support of production agriculture in almost every Kansas county. Most of these aerial application businesses are Kansas-owned and Kansas-run. They provide timely, effective, and safe control of insects, fungi, disease, weeds, and unwanted brush in all of Kansas' major crops and pastures. They also provide seeding and fertilizing services for especially challenging acreages or conditions. In short, they are an integral part of Kansas agriculture and the economic health of agricultural aviation is tied to the overall health of this key Kansas economic sector.

Aerial applicators have the unique privilege of being under the regulatory jurisdiction of the FAA, EPA, and USDA in addition to the Kansas Department of Agriculture. They understand the need for necessary regulations and the burdens of unnecessary or poorly designed regulations.

We understand the need to adjust the minimum monetary requirements on liability insurance coverage and even recognize its applicability to bonds, letters of credit, escrow accounts, etc. We do not understand, however, the need to eliminate those categories of proving financial responsibility.

Most of our members utilize liability insurance to satisfy financial responsibly requirements for their licensing under the KDA, but some prefer the other methods of meeting that requirement. We see no pressing need to eliminate these options for these Kansas small businesses.

Options other than insurance help to keep the market competitive and rates more reasonable – a benefit to all of our operators and their customers. The agricultural aviation industry in Kansas has proven to be financially responsible and the number of claims and their average size do not merit a change in policy at this time. Eliminating these options from Sec. 2 of K.S.A. 2-2448 as provided on pages 4 and 5 of HB2050 is not a necessary or prudent change in the law governing these applicators.

Thank you for your consideration.



House Agriculture & Natural
Resources Committee

Date 2-13-2013

Attachment # 4