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February 13, 2013

**To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**  
**Re: House Bill 2050**

The Kansas Pest Control Association (KPCA) supports House Bill 2050, particularly Section 2 regarding liability insurance.

KPCA is the only statewide pest management professional group in Kansas. We are also partners with the National Pest Management Association, which works with associations in all U.S. States and Territories. There are more than 1,400 individual pest control business licensees in Kansas and more than 4,000 individuals who hold pest control licenses.

KPCA supports Section 2 of House Bill 2050, which eliminates the \$6,000 surety bond and increases the liability insurance and personal insurance liability requirements. Proposed changes also eliminate requirements of letters of credit and the establishment and retention of escrow accounts. The liability insurance changes proposed are well within industry standards and will cause no undue hardships on pest management professionals. The letter of credit and escrow requirements are no longer industry standard practices, are outdated and not as protective of consumers as requiring pest management professional to carry insurance policies.

Serving the state since 1948, KPCA has always promoted the safety of Kansans. Despite several changes to our mission statement through the years, one sentence has never been altered, "to provide programs and services which will assist its Members in achieving success in the operation of their business as protectors of the health, environment, and property of Kansans."

Proposed changes in HB 2050 fit within that mission, and KPCA views them as simply adapting to the times.

Our industry maintains high standards. The services we provide are essential to the well-being of Kansans, and are important factors in maintaining healthy home, work and school environments. Each pest control professional in Kansas must be licensed, and maintains that license with continuing education regulated by the state of Kansas, industry partners and KPCA.

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The simple truth is there are products and methods we use which can carry risk. Pest control chemicals, when used by untrained professionals irresponsibly, can cause illness and have negative environmental impacts. Pest control treatment methods, when applied by untrained professionals irresponsibly, can cause damage to property and pose safety risks. But when these chemicals and treatments are applied by licensed and educated professionals, these services provide an essential public service and create healthy, clean and safe environments.

The changes proposed in Section 2 of HB 2050 ensure that the pest management professionals being hired meet standards that guarantee the property and personal safety of consumers are protected. For more than 65 years, KPCA has maintained that individuals not willing to meet these standards should not be in the industry.

KPCA supports Section 2 of HB 2050, and we ask for your support of this change. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spencer".

**Spencer Duncan**  
*Executive Director*  
*Kansas Pest Control Association*