



Feb. 5, 2013

TO: House Committee on Local Government

From: Leslie Kaufman
Kansas Cooperative Council

Ron Seeber
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

RE: Written Testimony in support of HB 2118 – Historic Environs

Chairman Steve Huebert and members of the House Committee on Local Government, thank you for the opportunity to share our support for HB 2118 dealing with historic environs. The Kansas Cooperative Council represents all types of cooperative (member-owned/member-controlled) businesses in Kansas including agriculture marketing and supply, utilities, financial co-ops and consumer cooperatives. The KGFA is a voluntary state association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in the state of Kansas. KARA's membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities which supply fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, seed, petroleum products and agronomic expertise to Kansas farmers.

Our member businesses have operations in rural areas and inside city limits all across this state. We support the changes in HB 2118 which remove the "encroach upon" language and the set-back distances surrounding historic properties. The set-backs place a burden on adjacent land owners and have the potential to stifle their business operations should they need or want to change their facilities footprint, even if it would not cause harm to the neighboring historic property.

We believe the changes in HB 2118 provide a proper balance between protecting historic landmarks and the property rights of neighboring landowners. We encourage your favorable action on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments today. Please let us know if you have any questions: Leslie Kaufman, 785-220-4068 or Ron Seeber, 785-234-0461.