



KANSAS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL  
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[WWW.KANSASCO-OP.COOP](http://WWW.KANSASCO-OP.COOP)

Date: February 6, 2018

To: Rep. Tom Sloan, Chairman  
House Committee on Water and Environment

From: Mandy Roe, Director of Member Services  
Kansas Cooperative Council

**RE: HB 2577- Creating the Kansas right-to-know fee fund**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2577. The Kansas Cooperative Council represents all types of cooperatively structured businesses including agriculture marketing and supply, utility, financial co-ops and consumer cooperatives. Co-ops differ from other businesses because they are member-owned and operate for the mutual benefit of members.

Kansas Cooperative Council members pay a variety of fees to be licensed or regulated. In this case, the fee outlined in HB 2577 covers the administrative costs of KDHE operating the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. Our members regularly handle products required to be registered with KDHE under the Act.

Currently, the fee in the bill is deposited into the State General Fund. The Kansas Cooperative Council believes fee dollars generated for specific programs should be spent on meeting that program's needs and not for other activities. We caution agencies and urge them to establish fee limits that allow them to meet program requirements but avoid large fund balances that could become targets for budgetary "sweeping". Therefore, we stand in support of HB 2577, which would establish the Kansas right-to-know fee fund and preserve the integrity of our fee dollars.

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council, thank you again for the opportunity to share our support for HB 2577. The KCC would respectfully request, that when the committee considers HB 2577 for action, you consider it favorably.

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