

# **SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES**

**RE: SB 117 – An act relating to noxious weeds.**

**February 13, 2017**

**Chairman Kerschen and members of the Committee:**

My name is Dennis Peterson. I am the President of the County Weed Director's Association of Kansas (CWDAK) and director of the Riley County Noxious Weed Department. Our association appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony as an opponent on Senate Bill 117.

Senate Bill 117 would add wild blackberry to the list of county option noxious weeds in the Kansas Noxious Weed Law. Our association has not heard of anyone in the state who is having a serious problem with this plant that would constitute adding it as a noxious weed.

A noxious weed in Kansas is an invasive species that if left uncontrolled would cause a severe economic impact to agriculture in the state of Kansas. Wild blackberry does not fit this definition. Our association feels that this is a management issue for landowners and that the counties should not need to supply cost-share herbicides for this purpose.

Also, we do not think that this is an appropriate time for the legislature to be adding a noxious weed to the state list while at the same time HB 2246 has been introduced in the House Agriculture Committee which would take the responsibility away from the legislative and give that responsibility to the secretary of agriculture. The two bills appear to be contradictory and we would ask that you take no action on this bill at this time.

Our association appreciates this opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 117.

Thank You.