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Date: March 12, 2020  
To: Representative Ron Highland, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee  
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council  
**RE: Senate Bill 285, sunset extension of the redevelopment fund for removing abandoned underground storage tanks**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 285 on behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC). The KCC is a voluntary trade association representing all forms of cooperatively-structured businesses in Kansas. Its mission is to promote, support, and advance the interests, business success, and understanding of agricultural, utility, credit, and consumer cooperatives and their members through legislation and regulatory efforts, education, and public relations. Simply, cooperatives differ from other businesses because they are member-owned, member-controlled, democratically-governed, and profits are returned back to the patrons.

Agricultural cooperatives often have grain, agronomy, precision ag, seed, feed, and fuel operations. Some of our members have had underground petroleum tanks on their sites that were no longer in use. The redevelopment fund addressed in SB 285 has successfully helped over 95 facilities in the removal of 293 abandoned underground storage tanks (USTs) since the program's inception in 2012.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment estimates that there are still at least 270 abandoned USTs that remain in the ground. SB 285 would extend the sunset of this redevelopment fund program through 2032, encouraging more UST removal. **Removal of abandoned tanks leads to quicker identification of potential contamination and decreases blighted facilities across the state.**

For these reasons, the KCC stands in support of SB 285. Thank you for allowing us to comment today.