



To: House Taxation Committee

Subject: Proponent Testimony on H.B. 2517 – Property tax abatement for agricultural improvement destroyed or substantially destroyed by a natural disaster

Date: February 13, 2020

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Taxation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of H.B. 2517 on behalf of the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA). KSA represents Kansas soybean farmers on legislative and regulatory issues.

Kansas was 10th in state soybean production at 186 million bushels in 2019. The Kansas Department of Agriculture reports that oilseeds, mainly soybeans, in Kansas have a direct economic output of more than \$1.28 billion and provide more than 1,000 jobs. Adding induced impacts, the oilseed industry supports over 4,000 jobs and creates a total economic contribution of \$1.8 billion.

H.B. 2517 allows a taxpayer who has made an “agricultural improvement” in the way of a farm building or structure that is destroyed or substantially destroyed by a natural disaster to request up to a three year abatement of property taxes from the local county commission.

The provision is similar to current law relating to homesteads destroyed or substantially destroyed by a natural disaster.

H.B. 2517 makes good sense and represents good public policy. It would provide some reasonable financial relief for those impacted by a natural disaster should the governor declare the event a disaster and the county commissioners grant the abatement.

KSA respectfully requests the House Taxation Committee report H.B. 2517 favorably for passage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwight C Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dwight Meyer, President
Hiawatha, Kansas