

Testimony on SB287

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

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Chair Kerschen and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in support of SB287 related to the revisions of the Kansas Storage Tank Act (KSA 65-34,100 *et seq.*). The KDHE Bureau of Environmental Remediation is responsible for protecting human health and the environment from releases of hazardous substances, petroleum products and other pollutants. The bureau manages several remediation programs with the goal of cleaning up contamination to reduce or eliminate the risk to human health and the environment, as well as return impacted properties to productive use.

As proposed, SB287 amends the Kansas Storage Tank Act as necessary to extend the sunset date of the underground storage tank (UST) replacement program (KSA 65-34,139) from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2030. The bill also increases the amount of reimbursable 'not to exceed' expenses from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per facility for UST replacement work completed on and after July 1, 2020.

KDHE can confidently predict a need to extend the program through at least 2030. Kansas has one of the oldest inventories of USTs in the country and a full system upgrade can routinely cost over \$250,000. The current UST replacement program provides reimbursement of up to \$50,000 per facility for the removal of single-wall USTs and upgrade to double-wall UST systems. This bill will have a positive impact on tank owners by providing more incentive due to the maximum reimbursable amount increasing from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per facility.

Petroleum contamination is often identified during a tank removal. KDHE anticipates an increased use of the reimbursement programs will help discover contamination in a more-timely manner. Quicker identification of contamination helps ensure protection of future generations of Kansans.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the importance of this bill. I welcome any questions.