



To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
From: Kansas Soybean Association and Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Subject: Proponent Testimony on S.B. 295
Date: February 5, 2020

Chairman Tyson and members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present written proponent testimony today on S.B. 294 on behalf of the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) and the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers (KAWG). Respectively, the organizations represent Kansas soybean and wheat farmer interests on legislative and regulatory issues.

Our farmers across the state pay millions of dollars in property taxes that support government functions and programs. These property taxes are often a large portion of our farmers' operations' fixed costs and can have a direct effect on their profitability.

Property tax burdens have grown prohibitive over the last several years, in large part due to increases in assessed property valuations. Increases in property taxes and other inputs, coupled with a declining farm economy and commodity prices, put our farmers at risk of losing their businesses. With farm bankruptcies and farmer suicides becoming more common, it is important that we, as a state, help support the agriculture industry, the backbone of the Kansas economy.

Senate Bill 295 makes sure that the valuation for all real property shall not be increased solely as a result of normal repair, replacement or maintenance of structures, equipment or improvements on the property. This allows our farmers to keep their property updated and working efficiently, without running the risk of having a prohibitive increase in the valuation of that property. The bill encourages property owners to invest in their property, is practical and is good public policy. For that reason, the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers and the Kansas Soybean Association support this bill.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 295. We respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dwight C Meyer".

Dwight Meyer, President
Kansas Soybean Association
Hiawatha, Kansas

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Justin Knopf".

Justin Knopf, President
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Gypsum, Kansas