



Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association  
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March 22, 2021

To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel  
Re: **Joint, Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2442, providing liability protection for businesses, municipalities and educational institutions that participate in high school work-based learning programs and providing that schools are responsible for injuries to students participating in such programs.**

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Chairman Tarwater and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2442. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association (Renew Kansas).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA is an agribusiness industry trade association whose membership includes over 700 companies across Kansas. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels processing industry.

Across Kansas, our member grain elevators, biofuel processing plants, and agribusiness facilities contribute to the Kansas economy and provide gainful employment for thousands of Kansans. There is an on-going demand in the agribusiness industry for trained, skilled labor. Our associations support policies to promote a ready, trained workforce for Kansas agribusiness, including the promotion of vocational and technical training.

We understand the intent of House Bill 2442 is to resolve liability concerns regarding high school apprenticeships and training programs by allowing these students to be covered by the liability insurance policy of the student's school district. The bill would exempt any business that accepts a secondary student in a work-based learning program from civil liability claims arising from the student's negligent act or omission as a result of participating in the program at the business or work site.

As this bill encourages student participation in vocational and technical training programs, while also creating awareness of career opportunities for these young workers, we would stand in support of the measure.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2442. We respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably, and we will stand for questions at the appropriate time.