## HB 2694 Position Statement

Western Equipment Dealers Association is an international trade association that represents approximately 2,200 farm, industrial and outdoor power equipment dealers in North America.

In Kansas, WEDA represents 147 dealer locations. Those locations account for $1.9 billion in annual revenue and over 1500 employees. Through the sale of equipment, parts, and service, our dealer members work in partnership with farmers and ranchers across Kansas to make them the most productive and competitive food producers in the world.

At its core, HB 2694 is legislation promoting transparency in our legal system. The primary purpose of the bill is to allow disclosure of financial interests in litigation during discovery. This is surprisingly necessary because litigation as an investment has become a business model invading our judicial system.

Lawsuit investors are a real thing. Entities engaged in this practice range from private equity companies to foreign sovereign wealth funds. The money being funneled into our courts skews the incentives of litigation beyond finding equitable outcomes for parties involved in the actual controversy. The pursuit of justice is being replaced with investors who are dictating outcomes for high yield returns.

HB 2694 would not prohibit this questionable enterprise, it would only allow disclosure of it. This simple, common-sense reform has already been passed by other states, including Wisconsin. The bill would not intrude on plaintiffs attorney's compensation agreements, rather it would only pull the veil off of wealthy, hidden lawsuit investors.

As equipment dealers and Kansas businesses face numerous challenges, one of them shouldn't be wondering whether international investors are backing litigation to maximize their returns at their expense.

For these reasons, we urge you to support HB 2694.

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Western Equipment Dealers Association