

Written Testimony on SB 38

Presented to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

by KDHE, Division of Environment

January 26, 2021

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is pleased to provide testimony in support of SB 38. Senate Bill 38 establishes a Kansas pesticide waste disposal program to be administered by the secretary of agriculture for the collection and disposal of pesticide waste in the state.

Senate Bill 38 will provide funding for the safe collection and disposal of pesticide waste material. If left unattended, containers of unused pesticide may leak their contents into soil and pose a health hazard for people later coming into contact with the soil. In addition to unintentional releases, providing a collection program will prevent intentional dumping of unwanted pesticides.

Over time, pesticide released into the soil may percolate downward and contaminate groundwater used as a drinking water source for private and public wells. Clean up of contamination is time and resource intensive compared to prevention.

Collection and disposal of pesticide waste material will eliminate a source of contamination of soil and groundwater and provide for the protection of public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.