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February 16, 2021

Attn: Senator Dan Kerschen  
Chairman of Ag. Committee  
Topeka, KS 66612

**RE:** House Bill # 261

Hello Senator Kerschen,

I am a resident of Kansas House District 75 (1114 Teradyne Court, Andover, KS 67002). I own an environmental company located in Wichita specializing in asbestos abatement and mold removal services. We have been in business for over 24 years, are licensed by KDHE and do work throughout the State of Kansas. We have 10 full time abatement technicians and likely will hire more during 2021.

I am in full support of House Bill 261. Our company interacts with the KDHE Asbestos Control Section on a regular basis. I believe it is critical that funding be made available to staff the Asbestos Control Section at appropriate levels to enforce asbestos control regulations which are designed for public safety. It makes total sense that fees and penalties received be credited to the asbestos remediation fund and NOT the general fund to help assure consistent funding.

As an asbestos abatement contractor, our company completes projects in schools, universities, hospitals (VA and private), office buildings, commercial properties, industrial facilities, etc. Kansas currently has less enforcement than several neighboring states and I have seen abuse by contractors due to limited field presence/enforcement. I know firsthand that any further reductions in enforcement and leaving asbestos regulations to be self-enforced by general contractors, demolition contractors, etc. is a serious threat to public safety. Those of us that abide by the regulations need to compete on a level playing field. A consistent, effective regulatory environment is essential.

I request you vote in support of this important Bill. Thank you for your continued service to Kansas.

Respectfully,



Paul Ryan, LLC Manager / Owner

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