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Date: March 2, 2022
To: Senator Dan Kerschen, Chairman, Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council
RE: Proponent Testimony on HB 2560

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC), thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 2560. The KCC is a statewide association that works on behalf of all types of cooperatively structured businesses in Kansas. Some of the industries organized as cooperatives include agriculture, utility, financial, and insurance. Simply, cooperatives differ from other businesses because they are member-owned, member-controlled, democratically governed, and profits are returned to member-owners.

Most of KCC's members are agricultural retail cooperatives that are licensed and regulated by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). As such, we support a strong state agency whose programs are adequately staffed and funded.

Many of KDA's programs are funded by fees on our cooperatives and other industries. From licenses on grain warehouses to pesticide dealers to fertilizer applicators, our members understand that the continuation of fees is needed for state licensing programs to remain healthy and stable.

While we have seen some fees increase in recent years, House Bill 2560 would extend the sunset on the KDA's ability to collect the fees they need without increasing them on our members. Therefore, we support House Bill 2560 and appreciate the opportunity to provide our brief comments today.