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Date: February 9, 2021  
To: Senator Carolyn McGinn, Chairwoman, Senate Local Government Committee  
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council  
**RE: Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 118**

Chairwoman McGinn and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC), thank you for the opportunity to support Senate Bill 118. The KCC is a statewide association that works on behalf of all types of cooperatively structured businesses in Kansas. The industries organized as cooperatives are vast, including agriculture, utility, financial and insurance.

Cooperatives are often the largest employer and taxpayer in rural Kansas towns and understand the relationship between their local tax dollars and the services they receive. Our members take that responsibility seriously and invest generously into the communities in which their members live and work.

However, in recent years, our agricultural co-ops in particular have seen drastic spikes in their property taxes on their commercial grain storage. These substantial increases are unsustainable, and our members are looking for relief where they can find it.

The KCC supports any legislation that streamlines government, improves efficiency by identifying duplication of services, and ultimately reduces their overall local tax burden. Thus, we support the provisions set forth in Senate Bill 118 that would allow a city or county to assume the powers, responsibilities and duties of any special district within their boundaries.

We also understand that those decisions should be considered carefully to ensure that the public will be better served, overall, by the change. The KCC believes that any dissolution of special districts should be voluntary and appreciates the requirement for a public hearing in advance.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 118, and we respectfully ask for your support.