



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
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February 16, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Local Government
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel
Re: **Joint, Written Opponent Testimony on SCR 1606, constitutional amendment to grant counties home rule powers.**

Chairman McGinn and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1606. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association (Renew Kansas).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA is an agribusiness industry trade association whose membership includes over 700 companies across Kansas. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels processing industry.

Across Kansas, our member grain elevators, biofuel processing plants, and agribusiness facilities contribute to the Kansas economy, provide gainful employment for thousands of Kansans, and pay millions in property taxes to help support schools and local government.

These agribusiness industries are also highly-regulated at both the state and federal levels. Most regulations are necessary and proper, but because regulations have the full force and effect of law, the process of adopting regulations should be deliberate and fully transparent to the regulated industry.

In addition, for industry to be able to operate and continue to provide jobs and tax revenues, they must be able to function in a reasonable regulatory structure that is based in science, is not unnecessarily duplicative, and is consistent across the state.

Over-regulation, or inconsistent regulation, creates an unmanageable business environment. While a reasonable regulatory structure can exist at the state or federal level, the adoption of local ordinances and regulations would lead to an unsustainable system for Kansas agribusiness industries.

For these reasons, and to ensure Kansas remains a competitive state to do business in the future, we stand in opposition to SCR 1606. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify. We respectfully request that the committee take no further action on this measure.