



January 21, 2026

**To:**

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Kansas Legislature  
Email: [H.Agriculture@house.ks.gov](mailto:H.Agriculture@house.ks.gov)

**Re:** Opposition to *HB 2476* — Permitting Federal Pesticide Warning or Labeling Requirements to Satisfy Any State Pesticide Warning or Labeling Requirements

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Rise for Environmental Justice, I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to [HB 2476](#).

While well-intentioned efforts to streamline regulatory requirements can be important, this bill would preempt stronger state pesticide warning and labeling standards in favor of minimum federal requirements. Under HB 2476, any federally approved label or warning would automatically satisfy all state law obligations on pesticide warnings and health protections.

This shift undermines state and local capacity to protect public health, especially the health of farmworkers, children, rural families, and frontline communities in the following ways:

**1. Eroding State Authority to Protect Health:**

Kansas already has the authority to require pesticide labeling and warnings that reflect local conditions, exposures, and scientific evidence. HB 2476 would substitute federal minimum standards for state protections, even in circumstances where state public health data or community concerns suggest a greater need for transparency. The bill removes an important layer of accountability and public safety.

**2. Ignoring New or Emerging Health Evidence:**

Federal labeling standards often lag current science on neurological, endocrine, reproductive, and carcinogenic effects of pesticides. Scientific evidence shows that many widely used pesticides can affect children's neurodevelopment, disrupt hormonal function, and contribute to chronic disease. These are risks that may not fully be captured by existing federal labeling alone. States need flexibility to require warnings that reflect this evolving science.

**3. Disproportionate Impacts on Frontline and Rural Communities:**

Farmworkers, rural neighbors, and communities near application sites experience higher cumulative exposure to pesticides. These exposures are not uniformly distributed and frequently



correlate with income inequality, race, and access to health care. Allowing only federal warning standards disregards the lived experiences of those who face heightened risks daily.

#### **4. Weakening Right-to-Know and Local Prevention:**

Right-to-know laws are fundamental to community health. They allow residents, healthcare providers, and local officials to understand environmental exposures and take preventive action. State labeling requirements have historically given communities the ability to require more detailed hazard communication, enabling better health decision-making and earlier intervention.

For these reasons, Rise for Environmental Justice opposes HB 2476. We urge the Committee to protect Kansas' authority to adopt and maintain robust pesticide warning and labeling standards that reflect current science, local health conditions, and community needs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Atenas Mena MSN, RN, NC-BC

[Rise4ej.org](http://Rise4ej.org)

913-608-9266