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Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

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**Testimony on SB 314 to  
The Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Susan Metzger  
Assistant Secretary  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
January 27, 2016**

Good afternoon, Chairman Love and members of the Committee. I am Susan Metzger, assistant secretary with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. I am here to express the department's support for SB 314 to extend the Local Food and Farm Task Force.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is committed to a balanced approach of serving our state's agricultural industry, providing an environment that encourages and enhances growth, and advocating for agriculture while also ensuring a safe food supply to the best of our ability. From the large agribusiness that conducts business on a global scale to small-scale agricultural enterprises that provide fresh fruit and vegetables to a local consumer base, the department is proud to work with and provide support for the entire agricultural industry. That includes providing staff support for the Local Food and Farm Task Force since its creation in 2014.

The department supports the specialty crop industry in Kansas. Our staff is willing and prepared to continue providing staff support to the Task Force, if an extension is deemed necessary, in order to continue working toward the overall objective to removing obstacles necessary to increase locally grown food in Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.