



January 26, 2016

Ashley Jones-Wisner
State Policy Manager, KC Healthy Kids
SB 314, Senate Agriculture Committee

Chairman Love and distinguished members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

Over the course of the past year, KC Healthy Kids and several dozen other organizations in the state followed with keen interest the work of the Local Food and Farm Task Force. Created by the 2014 Kansas Legislature, the individuals who were appointed to this group focused considerable time and attention to challenges and opportunities to expand our local food supply and systems. They had terrific support from the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas State University and others as they listened to Kansans who are working to boost local food production.

We support the recommendations embodied in their legislative report and look forward to more policy discussion surrounding them. In that regard, we're especially concerned with the high rate of sales tax on food in Kansas and encourage the legislature to take steps to eliminate this tax or reduce it. This high sales tax rate is a very real barrier to local food producers and to Kansas families and senior citizens living on a tight budget or fixed income.

We strongly support enactment of SB 314, continuing the task force. While a great deal of work was done over the past twelve months, there is more analysis and strategic planning that must be done if we are to make greater accomplishments in boosting the local food supply in our state. The benefits of this are vast, including an improved health status for our fellow Kansans and economic growth in Kansas agriculture. Thank you for your work and for your consideration of this measure.