

Dale Rodman testimony on SB 305

May 18, 2015

My name is Dale Rodman, formerly the Secretary of Agriculture under the current Administration, after a long career in the Agriculture sector (Cargill) and I currently serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the KBA.

In 2011 the Governor asked me to get involved with the KBA to conduct a thorough assessment and bring about a course correction to the KBA, in 2012 the Governor appointed me to the KBA Board as one of his two appointments.

The re-constituted board proceeded to bring a change in management and in concert with new CEO Duane Cantrell, determined a new strategic direction of the KBA, one that would bring the KBA to a point of sustainability and provide a return on invested capital while building the bioscience community in Kansas. A strategic direction, an investment plan and a management team and structure that has been unanimously supported by the KBA Board.

In spite of a lack of funding support and appropriated funds being withheld in 3 of the last 4 years, through the direction and leadership of the management team and the KBA Board, we have brought this ambitious turnaround goal within reach.

I find it ironic that just last November the Governor stated that he believed one of the legacies of his administration would be the KBA and its impact on the Kansas economy.

In January, at the inaugural celebration, Senate President Wagle referred to the turnaround of the KBA as one of the most important highlights of the first four years of this administration.

Now we sit here 90 days later, contemplating a bill that would immediately terminate the KBA,

- thus eliminating the nation-wide momentum that has been established,
- eliminating the likely returns of State investment capital to be realized,
- eliminating the growth of the quality jobs in this sector
- while startup bioscience companies will pursue, out of necessity, the additional investment capital needed to complete in other states

I find it ironic that we contemplate the termination of the KBA while other states, are following our lead and pursuing similar structures and efforts to attract this coveted economic sector.

Like those who have spoken before me over the last ½ hour, I am opposed to the passage of SB 305.

Dale Rodman
Chairman of the KBA Board