

Attention: Chairman Masterson and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Re: Opposition to SB 305

May 18, 2015

My name is Lee Borck and I am a member of the Kansas Bioscience Authority Board of Directors, currently serving as Chairman of the Investment Committee. I was asked to serve by Governor Brownback for the purpose of changing KBA into an entity that that would bring new companies and their investments and jobs to the State of Kansas, while making an acceptable return on the state's invested capital. That has been accomplished despite the fact that KBA has been underfunded for the last three years.

I am here as a citizen of the State of Kansas and a CEO and owner/ employer of one of the largest cattle feeding entities in Kansas. The animal sector is one of the largest designated bioscience sectors in the KBA investment portfolio. In the last three years, just in the livestock sector, there has been an investment that has developed a process for dairy cows, dealing with mastitis that can reduce costs by an estimated two billion dollars in the United States alone and ten billion world wide. We have also funded a company that will allow small cowherd owners to treat their livestock for parasites without the need for expensive working facilities while on pasture.

The KBA has elevated Kansas as a player in the Animal Health Corridor. I believe we are responsible for the attraction of many animal health entities, and their payrolls, to Kansas City and the surrounding areas. Animal agriculture is one of the largest economic sectors in the state and growing. The loss of these investment funds to this sector will allow our neighboring states, who do not have an entity like the KBA, to surpass us and to attract the companies who are now coming to Kansas.

The investments the KBA has made will return a three to five times invested capital if allowed to continue. At a time when Kansas is running large deficits in the operation of the state government, it would be very poor judgement to eliminate an entity that is actually making money for the state. If this is made as a part of the Department of Commerce, I assure you the return and the investment process will suffer greatly. Government is a poor steward of the tax money I pay. The KBA has been an exception to this statement.

For all of the above reasons I am opposed to the passage of SB 305.

Lee Borck

Manhattan, Kansas