

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The meeting was called to order by Rep. Bill Fuller at  
Chairperson

9:00 a.m./~~xxx~~ on January 28, 1983 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. George Teagarden, excused  
Rep. Anita Niles, excused  
Rep. John Solbach, excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Hurd, Revisor of Statutes' Office  
Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Kathleen Moss, Committee secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

John Blythe, Kansas Farm Bureau  
Dee Likes, Kansas Livestock Association  
Doyle Talkington, Kansas Pork Producers Council

The Minutes of the January 26, 1983 meeting were approved.

Chairman Fuller informed the committee that there were several conferees from farm organizations that we did not have time to hear yesterday. He stated they will give their presentations today and Tuesday of next week. Chairman Fuller said that Dr. James J. Shannon with the Federal Meat Inspection Program will be present to answer questions next Tuesday.

The first conferee called was John Blythe of the Kansas Farm Bureau. He distributed the Kansas Farm Bureau Resolution 1983 which is Attachment No. 1. Mr. Blythe commented that he supports the state administered inspection program as has been in Kansas the last several years within the Kansas Board of Agriculture, and encouraged the committee to make those recommendations to the Ways and Means Committee. He fielded several questions and said that 51 percent of the meat consumed in Kansas was processed by state inspection plants. The program has been successful over the years and that is reason enough to maintain the state program. Mr. Blythe was asked if there will be any attempt on the federal level for state inspected meat to go interstate. He is not aware of anything right now but the lobbyists in Washington are looking for the opportunity to change that law.

Dee Likes, Kansas Livestock Association was recognized. He distributed a prepared statement. See Attachment No. 2. Mr. Likes urged the strongest recommendation to the Ways and Means Committee to continue the state inspection program. Brought out during questioning was the practice of boxed meat which has become more popular during the last ten years making the processor more discriminatory in selecting uniformly sized beef.

Doyle Talkington, Executive Vice President representing the Kansas Pork Producers Council distributed Attachment No. 3. He was asked if there would be the flexibility with the federal program as opposed to the state. Mr. Talkington said that talking about Saturday overtime with the federal would be \$19.40 per hour plus mileage. The state works with 4-H fairs and will have someone on the spot evenings or weekends for inspection and will provide as much flexibility to the plants as they can. Mr. Talkington was asked about the number of complaints received and he answered there were some but not enough to be a problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 1983 in Room 423-S.

GUEST REGISTER

DATE Jan. 28, 1983

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
Jakob Laerby		Lewis, Ks
Edward E. Schepers		Belpre, Ks
Dale Busby		Concordia
Barry Swanson		Lawrence
Della Wray Blythe		Manhattan
Shanna Fuller		Miltonvale
Delores Polson		Kennett
Mary Fund	Kansas Rural letter	Whiting
Doyle Telkington	Kansas fork producers Council	Marquette
Mike Beam	KLA	Topeka
Doc Liker	" "	"
Ken Hansen	KMPA	Alma
Leo A. Skunk	La Crosse Meat Proc. Inc.	La Crosse, Ks
JULIS NABEL	Dir. of Budget	Topeka
Alan Conroy	" " "	"
DON JACKA	Ks. STATE BOARD OF Agriculture	Topeka
May Foster	" " "	"
Jenny D. Woodson	" " " "	"

## 1983 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Doyle D. Rahjes, Chairman . . . . . Phillips County  
Edie Dahlsten, Vice Chairman . . . . . McPherson County  
Leon Lallier . . . . . Wyandotte County  
Joan Lieber . . . . . Osage County  
Leon Sinn . . . . . Bourbon County  
Dee Wallace, Jr. . . . . Greenwood County  
Charles B. Johnson . . . . . Republic County  
Kenton Weltmer . . . . . Smith County  
Vernon Bartlett . . . . . Stafford County  
E. Lee Musil . . . . . Pawnee County  
Tony Leddy . . . . . Grant County  
Scott Wieland . . . . . Thomas County

# Kansas Farm Bureau

# Resolutions 1983



# **Kansas Farm Bureau**

## **Resolutions 1983**

Adopted by the Voting Delegates Representing 105 County Farm Bureaus at the 64th Annual Meeting of Kansas Farm Bureau in Topeka, December 7, 1982.

# State Issues

## AGRICULTURE

### A Voice for Agriculture

The resolutions and policy guidelines of our organization are determined by farmers and ranchers. Farm Bureau will speak out for farmers and ranchers at every opportunity, giving voice to the concerns of agricultural producers.

We will work with all other farm groups and organizations in pursuit of objectives designed to advance the interests of farmers and ranchers.

### Agricultural Chemicals

We will support reasonable regulation of the use of agricultural chemicals to assure adequate standards of public health. We will oppose regulations which are proposed as a result of mass hysteria and are not based on sound judgment and scientific knowledge.

The abundant agricultural production we know today is due in a large measure to timely and intelligent application of pesticides. Many farmers depend on commercial applicators for the control of agricultural pests. We support the continued use of ground and aerial pesticide applicators, who are state licensed and bonded or insured for the protection of the landowner and his neighbors.

No governmental agency should have the authority to ban, or continue the ban on, the manufacture or use of any agricultural chemical unless there is conclusive scientific proof that such use is detrimental to society.

We believe there should be a procedure developed to allow a temporary lift of the ban so that some chemicals, notably Dieldrin and Aldrin, can, in an emergency, be used by a registered, certified applicator to control chinch bugs, alfalfa weevils and other agricultural pest infestations. We believe the results and supporting data on all environmental tests which have been conducted by agricultural chemical companies should be made available upon request.

We urge continued funding for research programs which could lead to eradication of those insects and pests that are particularly damaging to agricultural production.

### Agricultural Commodity Storage and Sales Security

We urge farmers to be informed as to the payment risk involved in contracting for future sales of agricultural commodities already delivered to an elevator or feedyard.

We ask that if a check has been issued for payment of grain within 14 days prior to an elevator filing for bankruptcy or receivership, and if the check has not cleared the bank, the party to whom the check was issued be considered a first line and priority creditor in any bankruptcy settlement.

We believe all commercial elevators and grain warehousing facilities in Kansas should be licensed and bonded by the state, and or federal government, and inspected by the Warehouse Division of the State Grain Inspection Department a minimum of twice each year. Any discrepancy in the grain account should be reported immediately to the bonding company holding the bond of the elevator or grain warehouse. Legislation should be enacted so that, in the event of discrepancy or insolvency, there will be appropriate maintenance of grain in storage. We firmly believe that all elevator insolvencies under state jurisdiction should be completely settled in a maximum of 120 days.

We ask that the statute (K.S.A. 34-229) which establishes the amount and conditions of warehouseman's bond be amended so as to increase the percentages and monetary factors presently used in the formula in order to significantly increase the dollar amount of bond required.

We believe all licensed grain storage facility operators should be required to prove financial responsibility, should post and prominently display the bond for the facility, and should be audited annually for the protection of those who store grain in the facility.

Our statutes should be amended to place full responsibility for criminal prosecution of a warehouseman with the Attorney General. We further believe that the penalty language for an unlawful act or mishandling customer grain in

storage should be evaluated and make all such criminal acts a Class D felony. Any person or persons so convicted of a Class D felony should be prohibited from obtaining an elevator license for a period of ten years following his or her conviction.

We recommend a legislative study of K.S.A. 84-2-403 and K.S.A. 84-7-205 (Kansas Uniform Commercial Code) as they apply to Kansas Public Grain Warehouses and their power to transfer grain entrusted to their care.

We believe that in an effort to make the warehouseman responsible to his customer it should be a requirement that the elevator manager send to all customers an annual statement of the amount and kind of grain in storage and name the location of the grain in storage.

### **Commodity Commissions and International Grains Program**

The corn, grain sorghum and soybean commissions and the Kansas Wheat Commission, are assisting Kansas State University in the financing and operation of the International Grains Program, the purpose of which is to promote utilization and market development for our grains. We support the efforts of KSU and the Commodity Commissions in establishing the International Grains Program. We would urge the Kansas Legislature to make adequate appropriation of funds for operation of the International Grains Program.

### **Commodity Pricing Legislation**

We sincerely believe that the prices farmers receive for their grains and other commodities are too low. We further believe that legislated minimum commodity prices, if established by one state or several states, would not be practical and should not be promoted. We believe that one state placing a minimum price on one commodity that is grown worldwide and traded internationally will not be effective in raising the price of that commodity for Kansas farmers.

We will work through our organization and commodity groups to develop and enhance marketing strategies and opportunities.

### **Feeding of Garbage**

Swine that are fed raw or partially cooked garbage can be subject to contracting African Swine Fever, Trichinosis, and Hog Cholera. There is no vaccine presently available to combat African Swine Fever.

We believe that feeding of cooked, partially cooked, or uncooked garbage to swine or any animals or poultry should be prohibited, except that a person should be allowed to feed garbage produced in his own household to animals or poultry kept on the premises where he resides.

### **Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land**

We believe that aliens, who are in the process of becoming U.S. citizens, should have the same right of property ownership as persons who are U.S. born or are naturalized citizens. We further believe that ownership or long-term lease of agricultural land and commercial feedlots by individual foreign nationals who are not in the process of becoming U.S. citizens should be prohibited. We will oppose ownership of agricultural land and commercial feedlots by foreign national corporations.

Federal tax laws, and provisions of treaties to which the United States is a party, should assure that tax treatment of landowners is uniformly applicable. We are opposed to preferential tax treatment for foreign landowners or those foreigners who lease, rent, or have in any manner invested in our agricultural land.

We strongly support the federal legislation and regulations which require disclosure of the ownership of, or investment in, farmland by nonresident aliens, foreign corporations, partnerships or individuals. We believe such information should be readily available at the county level to any interested parties.

### **Grain Moisture Testers**

We recommend and will support legislation to require the Kansas State Department of Agriculture to establish rules, regulations, specifications, standards and tests to secure semi-annual inspection of every moisture testing device used in commerce in the State of Kansas. We believe the Weights and Measures Division of the State Department of Agriculture should be given this inspection responsibility.

## **Kansas Brand Laws**

We recognize and are concerned with the number and value of cattle lost each year through rustling or just "straying." In an effort to minimize this problem, we would encourage all cattle owners to obtain and use registered brands and to keep a regular count of their livestock, and report all losses to local law enforcement officials. We encourage the close cooperation of local law enforcement personnel as well as the KBI with the Kansas Brand Commissioner in apprehension of rustlers.

We do not propose mandatory branding, but for protection of individual owners we do favor a statewide inspection system which makes it mandatory that cattle be inspected for brands at licensed public sales, feedlots and packing plants.

We would advocate appropriate punishment for those persons convicted of livestock rustling. The theft of livestock should be considered a Class D felony.

## **Labeling**

We support proper labeling of foods, fibers, and other agricultural products.

We oppose the use of the names of **natural** farm products on substitutes for such natural foods. We do not object to any new food product entering the market. Such products should stand on their own merits and be correctly labeled.

All products offered to the public in imitation of, or as a substitute for, or in the adulteration of, any farm product or any item processed from a farm product should be labeled to include the names of all ingredients and, where labeled "home grown" or "native," the point of origin.

## **Meat and Poultry Inspection Program**

We believe that a state-administered Meat and Poultry Inspection Program is vital to the continued well-being of locker-type slaughter and processing operations in Kansas.

We believe state-inspected meat should be allowed to move in interstate commerce. We support legislation to require labeling of imported meat and poultry, and the labeling of such imports in processed products, as to country of origin.

## **Nonagricultural Firms in Agriculture**

Because of the entry of outside capital into agricultural crop production and livestock feeding operations, we should:

- (1) Avoid creating tax advantages which encourage such entry;
- (2) Oppose the use of agricultural land as a long-term, tax-sheltered investment by pension and profit-sharing funds;
- (3) Oppose legislation and IRS regulations that permit a taxpayer to offset farm losses against nonfarm gross income in excess of \$25,000; and
- (4) Oppose the use of FmHA funds for entry into the production phase of agriculture by nonagricultural firms.

## **Noxious Weeds**

Noxious weeds constitute a serious problem in agricultural production and soil stewardship. We urge strict compliance with the noxious weed laws, including payment of costs and penalties for violation of the law.

We believe that state, county, municipal or township agencies should be prohibited from sowing on public rights-of-way any cover crop containing noxious weeds that are restricted or prohibited by Kansas weed laws. Those agencies should also be prohibited from applying any mulching material that contains any restricted or prohibited noxious weed seed.

We believe there is a need to strengthen those sections of the noxious weed laws pertaining to cooperation between and among various state and local governmental agencies. Landowners should be authorized to spray and control noxious weeds on rights-of-way.

The use of "seed weevils" has been shown to be an effective control of musk (nodding) thistle. Experiments are also being conducted using a "rosette" weevil for musk thistle control. We ask the Kansas Legislature to provide adequate appropriations to continue tests, demonstration and use of weevils to control musk thistle.

We urge individual farmers and ranchers; Boards of County Commissioners and township boards; Corps of Engineers; Fish and Game Commission; the

Department of Transportation, railroads and others to conduct timely spraying and mowing to control objectionable weeds and grasses.

### **Predator Control**

We believe livestock producers should have the option of using, on privately-owned land, all reasonable means of controlling all predators, including predatory dogs.

We recommend current laws and regulations that prohibit or restrict the use of the M-44 cyanide gun for coyote control be amended to allow the use of the M-44 cyanide gun on privately-owned land whenever their use is recommended by the extension specialist in predator control at Kansas State University.

The coyote is a predatory animal and we are opposed to proposals to designate this predator as a fur bearing animal. Hunting, trapping, or otherwise taking coyotes should be allowed at all times other than by firearms during firearm deer season.

### **Sale of Mortgaged Property**

We support action to eliminate marketing agency liability for the sale of mortgaged livestock and other agricultural products when the farmer-seller or a third party diverts the proceeds from the lienholder.

### **State Board of Agriculture**

The present Kansas method of electing a State Board of Agriculture, which board employs the administrative head of the State Department of Agriculture, is unique among the states. We believe a close study of the history of the Department of Agriculture in Kansas will reveal that agriculture, and indeed the whole state, has been well served because the Department has never been placed in a partisan political position. For that reason, we will support a continuation of the present system.

## **ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION**

### **Appraisal, Assessment and Taxation of Real and Personal Property**

Reappraisal of property subject to the ad valorem property tax in Kansas should be addressed by the Legislature in 1983. We believe legislation should be enacted to begin the process of reappraisal, and we further believe the new values determined by the reappraisal process should be implemented in all 105 Kansas counties at the same time. The legislation should contain provisions for frequent updating of appraisals.

Procedures should be developed to insure against an unfair shift of taxes to agricultural and residential property.

We believe livestock should be exempt from property taxation in Kansas. There are 35 states that presently exempt livestock. Kansas should be added to this list of states so that we can maintain the leadership position in livestock production.

Voters approved an amendment to the Kansas Constitution to allow the Legislature to develop use-value appraisal of agricultural land in Kansas. We believe this Constitutional provision should be implemented.

We firmly believe that the income capitalization approach to value is sound and is an equitable method of appraising real property for tax purposes. Statutory or constitutional language should **require** that all properties valued under use-value, (the income capitalization approach), should have a common capitalization rate based on economic, interest rate and money market factors.

### **Assessment Ratio Report**

Because of the infrequent sale of agricultural land and the fact that nearly all agricultural land sells at a price which has little or no relationship to its ability to produce income, an Assessment-Value Ratio for agricultural land should be established for this class of property by the use of an appraisal using the factors of productivity, earning capacity and income.



## **Benefit District Assessments**

Special benefit districts created to serve developers or a few homeowners who have built in a rural setting are a financial burden to agricultural producers. Such districts have been developed in areas where large acreages have been annexed by cities and towns in Kansas.

We ask that legislation be enacted to prohibit benefit district assessments on land which is zoned for agriculture or is in agricultural production.

## **Farm Machinery Tax Exemption**

We commend and thank the Kansas Legislature for exempting farm machinery and equipment from all property or ad valorem taxes. We believe this exemption recognizes the importance of agriculture to the Kansas economy, is in keeping with similar actions in other states and the trend nationally exempting farm machinery from property taxation, and should be defended vigorously.

We believe farm machinery and equipment should be one of the exempt properties set forth in statute (K.S.A. 79-210) which are NOT required to file for the exemption granted by the legislature.

## **Industrial Revenue Bond Financing and In-Lieu-Of Taxes**

We believe Industrial Revenue Bond financing is a positive step for economic, industrial and business, and community development. We believe the ad valorem tax exemption granted for IRB-financed projects should not exceed five years.

We will support legislation to require an in-lieu-of tax payment on property that is removed from the tax rolls, or on property that is developed through the use of Industrial Revenue Bond financing. Such in-lieu-of tax payment should be distributed proportionally among all taxing units in which the property is located.

## **Investment Credit and Income Averaging**

Kansas tax laws provide some conformity with federal tax laws and regulations. Significant exceptions, however, relate to investment credit and income averaging. We believe increased economic strength for Kansas agriculture, business, and industry would result if Kansas tax laws permitted a claim of investment credit, and allowed income averaging.

We urge the Kansas Legislature to provide full allowance on Kansas tax returns for investment credit appropriately claimed on federal returns, and to give full benefit of income averaging provisions.

## **Severance or Mineral Production Tax**

We are opposed to enactment of a "severance" or mineral production tax at this time.

## **Spending Lid and a Balanced Budget**

We strongly support enactment of legislation to provide a state government spending lid for Kansas. We believe zero-base budgeting is essential for all state agencies. A spending lid, even if it means a reduction of services, is essential.

We strongly support enactment of legislation to provide adequate balances or reserves in the State General Fund. We believe across-the-board percentage reductions in state agency funding is appropriate when revenues and estimated receipts are low. Before any additional tax is imposed, the legislature should examine all programs to eliminate unnecessary spending.

State expenditures in a fiscal year should never exceed projected revenue receipts for that fiscal year.

## **State and Local Fiscal Needs**

It is time in Kansas to write a basic tax policy of taxing people for people services and taxing property for services to property.

## **COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **Banking Facilities and Services**

We believe there should be no further development of detached facilities or services by banks or other financial institutions. We are opposed to branch banking and to the acquisition of banks or other financial institutions by multi-bank holding companies.

## **CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Energy Sources and Supplies**

Short-term programs of energy conservation must be developed in such a manner as to assure equitable distribution of fuels and energy supplies to all segments of our economy.

In the long-range best interests of energy and fuel supplies, we believe government and private industry should work cooperatively to develop all possible sources of energy and fuel supplies.

### **Environmental Standards**

We will oppose legislation which would permit harassment of agricultural producers because of unsubstantiated allegations regarding damage or probable damage to the land, water or air. We believe no legislation should be enacted, nor should an environmental regulation be promulgated, unless it is based on factual information and scientific knowledge.

### **Hunting Regulations**

We believe hunting seasons for upland game birds should not begin before Thanksgiving Day. Early hunting season for dog training should be eliminated. The opening day of hunting should be the same for prairie chicken, pheasant and quail. The season should be reduced in length. The Fish and Game Commission should take the necessary action to shorten seasons and promote sportsmanship.

Under present law it is difficult to successfully prosecute hunters who intentionally trespass on privately held land. In order to facilitate effective enforcement of our trespass laws we urge enactment of legislation requiring hunters to possess written permission stating the days hunting is permitted, giving an adequate description and location of land for which permission is granted, signed by the landowner or operator. Such written permission should not hold the landowner or operator liable for accidents. The Fish and Game Commission should print on all hunting and fishing licenses the statement, "Written permission must be obtained from landowner, tenant or other agent."

We urge the Fish and Game Commission to annually issue more deer and antelope permits in order to insure a larger harvest. We believe each farmer, whether landowner or tenant, who requests a permit should receive one, but if special "landowner" deer and antelope permits are issued, such permit should restrict the holder of such special permit to hunting on his own land.

To encourage the Fish and Game Commission in its endeavors regarding establishment of seasons, we propose a thorough legislative study of the procedure and basis for promulgating hunting and fishing regulations, and of programs for enforcing those regulations.

### **Land Use Planning**

Land use planning must recognize that private ownership is the cornerstone upon which this country has been built.

Those who own or operate land should have the major responsibility for its development.

Land use planning should provide for the utilization of land resources and the environment in a manner that will preserve and protect these resources to meet the needs of our people.

We oppose legislation which would authorize or permit federal agencies to direct management decisions in the field of land utilization.

We urge farmers to become involved in planning and development of zoning ordinances to prevent undesirable land use patterns. We favor voluntary land use authorities formed for specific periods of time, in which farming may be designated as the priority use and other users may remain in, or move into these zones without recourse to abate the practices which are common to farming.

## **Landowners' Rights**

Landowners' rights must be safeguarded and protected. Equitable payment must be made for any land, in any "taking," or "partial taking" by eminent domain power. We believe eminent domain procedures should include development of an agricultural impact statement, complete with public hearing, appeal, and a determination of compensation for disruption of normal farming practices.

Loss of prime agricultural land is a major concern in Kansas and nationally. The United States Government and various federal agencies, including military establishments, frequently take large acreages of productive land. Proposals to expand Ft. Riley or any other military installation should be subject to full and complete public hearings and any expansion should have legislative approval.

We believe safeguards should be developed for landowners to protect against costs involved in bringing an abstract up-to-date when these costs are the result of transactions generated or incurred by a gas or oil company.

We firmly believe that no transportation system or public utility should be granted the power of eminent domain without having first received a certificate of convenience and necessity from the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Some groups have proposed that the public be given free public access to private property adjacent to river and stream beds. We will strongly oppose any such proposal and will likewise oppose the addition of any rivers or streams in the category of "navigable streams."

## **Nongame Wildlife Support**

We believe all forms of wildlife are important. We are concerned about the extinction of any species of wildlife.

We encourage members to participate in the Kansas Nongame Check-off voluntary contribution plan as provided on the Kansas Income Tax form. The money is used for funding the study of nongame wildlife resources in Kansas.

## **Prairie National Park**

We oppose creation of a Tallgrass Prairie National Park on privately owned land. We recommend that the Kansas Legislature consider the practicability of giving to the appropriate state agency the authority to provide adequate rest areas, observation towers and other maintained facilities for the benefit and pleasure of travelers along the route that has been designated as the "Prairie Parkway," and along other highways which traverse our native grassland.

## **Severed Mineral Rights**

Mineral interests or "rights" are property and may be owned by the surface landowner, or may be severed from the land as separate, distinct properties. When a mineral interest is "used," as demonstrated by actual or attempted production of minerals, by payment of rents or royalties, **and** by payment of taxes, the severed mineral "right" should remain. When there has been no "use," as described above, or written notice of ownership intent for a period of 10 years, severed mineral interests should revert to the current surface landowner.

## **Soil and Water Conservation**

We believe the owners and operators of agricultural land can best be served by a voluntary approach to soil conservation using federal and state cost-sharing funds as an incentive for developing and maintaining farm plans, and constructing and maintaining soil and water conservation structures. We ask the Kansas Legislature to adequately fund the state share of cost-sharing programs.

An intensive educational program conducted by the KSU Agricultural Extension Service, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, the Soil Conservation Districts, and county Farm Bureaus, could improve our rangeland and cultural practices on cultivated acres.

## **State Water Agencies**

Water is one of our most precious and important natural resources. All segments of our population and all component parts of our economy require an adequate supply of water.

We will continue to oppose changes in Kansas water laws that would result in major reorganization of state water agencies. We believe that a separation of powers and a system of checks and balances in the administration of water programs gives Kansans a better result than any further consolidation would produce.

The legislature, after rejecting major reorganization, created the Kansas Water Authority to provide coordination, oversight, and review of the programs and budgets of various state agencies which have responsibility for administering water laws.

We believe Kansas needs a Master Plan for water management. We further believe the Kansas Water Authority is the appropriate entity to develop such a plan and should be directed by the Kansas Legislature to do so. Kansas water planning should promote conservation, and should contemplate far-sighted, well-conceived, and carefully controlled use of international, interstate, and intrastate interbasin transfers of water to benefit agricultural producers and all other Kansans.

Legislation for interbasin transfer of water should require that any applicant must have developed and implemented a water conservation plan before the application gets final approval.

## **Water Districts**

We recognize the benefits of Rural Water Districts. Those benefits should be assured by legislation and regulations that guarantee and protect water rights for original rural water district patrons.

We will support legislation—both on a national and state level—that will make funds available for grants to be used in the construction of Rural Water Districts.

We will support legislation—both on a national and state level—that will finance, through federal funds (Farmers Home Administration), Rural Water Districts from watershed structures.

## **Water Management in Kansas**

Kansas farmers and ranchers recognize the importance of securing a Kansas water right as provided by law.

We support the Kansas Ground Water Management District Act, as amended in the 1978 Session of the Kansas Legislature, which gives local water users a voice in determining the use of ground water.

We encourage our members to participate in the organization and management of Ground Water Management Districts. Through participation they will be in a position to have an effective voice in calling for any needed changes, additions or deletions to the Ground Water Management District Act.

## **Water Quality Standards**

We urge the Legislature to make adequate appropriation of funds, to assure that the agency or agencies responsible for issuance of well drilling permits and the maintenance of water quality are enforcing existing statutes and regulations relating to salt water disposal and proper plugging of dry holes.

The Kansas Corporation Commission and the Department of Health and Environment should, prior to giving approval for disposal of salt brines, determine that the proposed method of disposal will assure that there will be no contamination of any fresh water. No well drilled on leased property should be used for disposal of salt water from wells on other property without consent from and compensation to the landowner. The power of eminent domain should NOT be granted for the purpose of salt brine disposal.

We ask that legislation be enacted to require that surface pipes shall be set to a depth sufficient to protect all fresh water formations from contamination.

## **Watershed Programs**

The Kansas Governor and Legislature have recognized the vital need for water storage and flood control to the urban and rural economies of the state. To accelerate development of this program they have established a cost-sharing agreement with organized watersheds and local landowners.

Since there are many urgently needed structures yet to be built in Kansas, and because there have been no new watershed projects undertaken since 1978, we request that this funding, furnished by the state and supervised by the State Conservation Commission, be continued and increased to facilitate and encourage this statewide program.

Planning for new watersheds has been taking 10 to 15 years and complete construction 20 years. To expedite planning and construction we urge the Kansas Legislature to consider permissive legislation authorizing the levy of one mill on the acreage of potential watershed areas for a period no longer than two years for the purpose of creating a trust fund, with the annual interest earned from such trust fund to be used for planning expenses involved in new watershed projects.

### **Zoning**

We oppose any extension of the power of cities to zone beyond their borders until there has been a thorough legislative study of this subject. Specifically, we oppose any change in the present authority of city and county zoning commissions.

## **EDUCATION**

### **CPR Training**

Applying CPR - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - saves countless lives every year. We ask the State Board of Education to encourage all school districts to incorporate voluntary CPR training into the public high school curriculums.

### **KSU Funding**

We strongly support the agricultural teaching, research, and extension services of Kansas State University. We believe these facilities and services should be adequately funded by the Kansas Legislature.

We urge higher priority and increased appropriation for both physical facilities and staffing for the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at KSU.

## **School Finance**

We believe the Kansas Legislature should ascertain what a "basic education" consists of in grades K-12, and should develop a school finance formula to assist in the delivery of, and funding for, that "basic education" for every child enrolled in public schools in each unified school district in the state.

We continue to believe that there should be minimal reliance on the property tax for support of our elementary and secondary schools. The property tax serves as the revenue source for many other local units of government.

Because all citizens, farmers and non-farmers alike, are consumers of food and are uniformly taxed on the food they purchase, we will oppose legislation to exempt food from the state sales tax.

We will support legislation to create a school district income tax, such tax to be collected by the state from every resident individual and returned by the state to the school district of residence of the individual taxpayer.

We will support legislation to increase the state sales tax by one cent (1%), PROVIDED the revenues from such increase are used for financing elementary and secondary schools and to reduce property taxes now levied for school finance.

We believe State General Fund revenues should be enhanced for school finance purposes by increasing the rates of income and privilege taxes imposed on corporations, financial institutions, insurance companies, and non-resident individuals.

It is our strong belief that as long as property is used as a measure of wealth, then intangible property should be a part of such measurement of wealth. We further believe that the valuation of IRB-property should be included in the total valuation of the school district in which such property is situated, and counted as part of such district's wealth.

The geographic size of school districts, and the density or sparsity of student population, along with total student enrollment, should be recognized as factors which result in necessarily higher expenditures per pupil in some districts. Those factors causing higher expenditures in any district should qualify for additional state aid or a cost-sharing by the state. We are opposed to the inclusion of a pupil/teacher ratio (PTR) factor in the School District Equalization Act.

## **GOVERNMENT**

### **Capital Punishment**

We believe capital punishment to be a deterrent to violent crime. Capital punishment should be reinstated in Kansas and the Kansas law should be in keeping with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling and guidelines for imposition of capital punishment. We support the right of Kansas citizens to vote on a Constitutional Amendment allowing Capital Punishment.

### **Citizen Participation**

Citizen participation in government is the very foundation and strength of our form of government in this state and nation. The Kansas Legislature and the Congress of the United States should be composed of representatives from all walks of life. We deplore the trend toward a professional, full-time Legislature and Congress.

From time to time citizens are asked to serve on a board, committee, commission or task force created by the Legislature, the Governor, the Congress, or the President. Such service should carry with it for lay citizens the same rights to participation, discussion, deliberation and voting as with other elected or appointed members of such board, committee, commission or task force.

### **County Government in Kansas**

We support the philosophy, which holds that government closest to those governed is best. In line with that philosophy, we will resist efforts to make any fundamental changes in, or consolidation of, any of our present 105 counties. We resist the argument that consolidation is necessarily an improvement. We will oppose legislative attempts to redraw county lines.

Permissive legislation has been passed which could be utilized by local units of government to provide cooperation between or among counties, or between cities and counties. We believe there are opportunities for government economy in providing such services as penal institutions, public health services, mental health services and engineering services on a cooperative basis.

We believe that federally and state mandated programs--vocational education programs, developmentally disabled student programs and other special education programs--should be fully funded by the federal or state government, whichever mandates a given program.

We have opposed in the past, and we will continue to oppose efforts to establish a statewide property tax levy.

### **Teacher Salaries**

Teaching is a challenging profession. It should be financially rewarding so as to attract and retain competent educators in the profession. Teacher salaries should reflect the economic strength of the state and the dignity of the profession.

We cannot afford mediocrity in education. Teacher salaries should be adequate and should be based on the competency and teaching ability of the individual teacher. We are opposed to teacher-tenure.

### **Teacher-School Board Relations**

We believe the authority of locally-elected boards of education should be recognized, supported and maintained. We cannot support legislation which would erode the legal authority of school boards. We will oppose legislation which requires a school board to yield its authority to a mediator, an arbitrator or disinterested third party.

### **Vocational Education**

We will continue to give our strong support to vocational education programs which meet demonstrated needs and which lead to some employable skill. We believe it is the responsibility of the state, through assurance of course offerings and non-property tax financial support, to provide quality vocational education programs. We recommend the state provide additional financial support for vocational programs at the secondary level.

Agriculture is the firm foundation for the Kansas economy. We believe there continues to be a need for vocational training in agriculture, agri-business, and farm mechanics. We urge adequate vocational training programs to meet these needs.

## **District of Columbia Representation**

We will vigorously oppose ratification by the State of Kansas of the proposed constitutional amendment to provide House and Senate seats for the District of Columbia.

## **Drug Abuse and the Drinking Driver**

We strongly support actions that will bring about a solution to the problems of drug abuse and the drinking driver in Kansas and across the nation.

There are no easy solutions to this problem, but three issues need to be addressed:

1. **Education.** All citizens need to be informed on the effects of alcohol and drug abuse in regard to the operation of a motor vehicle. Education for children should commence in Kindergarten and be continued through grade 12. Funding for such alcohol and drug abuse education should be provided by the state or federal government from taxes on alcohol and related industries.
2. **Enforcement.** Kansas statutes need to be strengthened and adequately enforced so violators will be apprehended and will be subject to all provisions of the law if they are found guilty.
3. **Rehabilitation.** An effective rehabilitation program needs to be implemented so the alcohol or drug abuser may be treated and rehabilitated.

The operation of a motor vehicle on our streets, roads and highways carries a large responsibility. Driving is not a right but a privilege that must be continually earned.

## **Fee Agency Funds**

We will support legislation which would limit the contribution of state agencies to the State General Fund to an amount not to exceed \$30,000 per year.

## **Fish and Game Commission**

We support the present statutory requirements for appointment to the Fish and Game Commission.

We believe consideration should be given to appointments of bona fide farmers to the Commission. We urge such appointments be made.

We would favor an established land-leasing policy giving first-choice farm tenancy privileges to the original landowner. Should the original landowner not desire to lease Fish and Game property, a uniform procedure for bid-basis land leasing should prevail through all Fish and Game service regions.

We are opposed to the Fish and Game Commission having the authority to use the power of eminent domain.

We believe the Kansas Fish and Game Commission should pay property taxes just as other owners of real property are required to do, or make an in-lieu-of tax payment to the county and school districts in which Fish and Game property is located equal to the ad valorem taxes on such property.

We recommend that the Fish and Game Commission conduct a study to determine if brucellosis and other livestock diseases are transmitted by deer and other wildlife.

## **Government Organization, Responsiveness and Finance**

Governmental regulation and bureaucratic involvement in the lives of our citizens must be reduced. Laws, resolutions, programs and activities of government—at any level—should be: cost-efficient, necessary, useful and effective. There should be a cost-benefit analysis of every regulatory agency.

We support the concepts of zero-base budgeting and sunset laws in order to help bring about responsive and fiscally responsible government.

## **Parimutuel Wagering: Constitutional Amendment**

We support the right of Kansas citizens to vote on a Constitutional amendment allowing the Legislature to provide for development, regulation, licensing and taxation of parimutuel wagering at county local-option, non-profit horse racing facilities in Kansas.

## **Political Campaign Financing**

We are opposed to the use of public funds for financing political campaigns at any level of government.

We believe personal contributions to political campaigns should be encouraged. There should be reasonable limits placed on the amount of money any one person, business, corporation, labor union, association or political action committee may contribute to any one candidate. Such limitation should include a monetary value placed on in-kind services that may be contributed to a candidate. We believe the value of resources available to incumbents . . . staff and other privileges . . . should be included in the calculation of campaign contributions.

We believe political campaigns have become far too costly and would, therefore, support a limitation on the time allowed for conducting campaigns in order to reduce the amount of money spent.

## **Regulatory Reform**

We believe excessive regulation represents a deterrent to the competitive enterprise system, and will eventually destroy it.

We urge the legislative branch of government, at the state level and at the national level, to legislate clearly and to legislate by statute. We deplore legislation by administrative regulation.

We hereby resolve to intensify our efforts to educate and to inform our members and all of the electorate concerning regulatory actions which tend to restrain competitive enterprise, or which tend to place in the hands of non-elected employees the development of regulations which govern our lives.

## **Stray or Injured Animal Care**

Any law enforcement officer confronted with a situation involving a stray, injured, or incapacitated animal should make every reasonable effort to locate the owner of such animal **prior** to an action relating to the removal, destruction, or disposal of the animal. We encourage enactment of legislation which will make clear the authority, circumstances, and jurisdiction under which stray, injured, or incapacitated animals may be disposed of or moved.

## **Trespass and Vandalism**

We believe that trespassing on and vandalism of private property is of growing concern to Kansas farmers. Under present laws, it is difficult to successfully prosecute individuals who intentionally trespass on privately held ground. We recommend that the Legislature strengthen the statutes concerning trespass and vandalism and increase the penalties for these offenses.

We urge county Farm Bureaus to become actively involved in working with local law enforcement officials to aggressively enforce trespass laws.

## **Voter Registration**

Election-day voter registration, or any method of registration which reduces or removes individual voter responsibility, would tend toward a lackadaisical attitude on the part of the voter and poses the prospect of great voter fraud.

We are strongly opposed to election-day voter registration. We are equally opposed to proposals which seek to give organizations the right to act for, or on behalf of, individuals in the registration process.

## **Voting**

We believe that in local, state, or national elections, military personnel, and college students whose permanent address or home of record coincides with that of the student's parents, should vote in the community of such permanent address or home of record.



We are strongly opposed to any proposal to permit voting by mail in national, state or local elections, except for absentee ballots.

## **LABOR AND INDUSTRY**

### **Right-to-Work**

We reaffirm our strong support for the "right-to-work" concept. We will oppose the repeal of legislation implementing the "right-to-work" in Kansas, and we will vigorously oppose the repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

### **Workers' Compensation**

We express our appreciation to the Kansas Legislature for continuing the exemption for agriculture from the industrially-oriented Workers' Compensation Law.

We will oppose efforts to remove the agricultural exemption, or any attempt to bring agricultural workers under the Kansas Workers' Compensation Act.

An agricultural workers' compensation plan, if one is devised after adequate study, should provide a payroll threshold of \$50,000 or such amount as would cover full-time, nonfamily-member employees and the occasional part-time labor so necessary in the family farming operations of Kansas.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE**

### **Emergency Aid**

We would encourage the Kansas Legislature to amend that portion of Kansas Statutes referred to as the Good Samaritan Law. It is important that every citizen making a good faith effort to render emergency care and assistance at the scene of an accident be exempt from civil damages.

## **Health Care for the Elderly**

We urge citizen volunteers and paid health professionals to cooperatively work to meet the needs of the growing elderly population in Kansas. It is important that local programs for Kansas senior citizens maximize the independence of the elderly as long as possible.

For many of our elderly, however, nursing home care will become a necessity. We believe nursing home regulations should be limited to only those that protect quality of care.

We support the pilot project for the use of the acute care hospital beds in such a way as to allow for Medicare reimbursement for skilled nursing care in hospital beds now limited by government regulation to only acute care service.

## **Health Insurance Policy Coverage**

Individuals or groups seeking to purchase health insurance policies should have the freedom, flexibility and opportunity to purchase coverage for those items, diseases, conditions, or procedures desired by the individual or group to be covered.

We will oppose legislation which seeks to mandate the terms, types, conditions and coverages of health insurance policies.

## **Mandatory Health Care Cost Control**

Spiraling health care costs warrant serious consideration by private citizens and health care professionals alike. Government mandated cost-containment legislation will not provide the best answer to this dilemma. We will continue to support voluntary leadership in the area of health care cost control.

## **Nurse Education and Licensing**

Entry into nurses' training should be open and available to all who want to pursue a career in nursing. The level of education a nurse wants to acquire, and the licensing and designation of professional capability should reflect educational level attained.

We believe present educational programs for Registered Nurses--baccalaureate degree, associate degree, and diploma--and Licensed Practical Nurses should be continued so that there remains an opportunity for an adequate supply of well trained nurses at every level of need.

### **Nutrition Education for Health Professionals**

There is evidence that many health care professionals have not had sufficient educational course work in nutrition and its relation to the treatment of disease.

We believe nutrition training and courses should be required in medical and health-related education curricula.

### **Nutrition Education for School Children**

Today's young families and school children need to learn the how's and why's of an adequate, balanced diet. Little, if any, formal education is provided in Kansas schools to help our youth learn how to fit needed nutrition into the era of fast-food restaurants. School food personnel need nutrition education as well.

Previous USDA programs have provided funds for school meals, milk and food service equipment. Only recently have funds become available for nutrition education.

We urge county Farm Bureaus to support and encourage nutrition education and training programs in Kansas schools. We strongly urge monitoring the use of federal funds for nutrition education in order to assure that students and food service personnel receive the benefits of such nutrition training programs.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES**

### **County Bridge Construction**

We believe there should be county, state and federal government cost-sharing and financing so that bridge construction and bridge replacement may proceed without further delay. Specifications and

standards for bridges should be determined cooperatively by state and local engineers to meet local needs. Where practicable, we would urge the use of prestressed, precast materials, as well as dirt fills in connection with conservation dams, for bridge construction, as opposed to costly "over-designed," over-built bridges. We further believe that in some cases, low-water bridges would be adequate.

### **County Highway Fund Distribution**

The present Kansas law which distributes highway user revenues to counties uses a formula which gives excessive weight to motor vehicle registrations. This results in glaring inequities of fund distributions. We will support an amended formula with major weight given to miles of county federal-aid secondary, rural road and highway travel, plus consideration of miles of roads that must be maintained by county highway departments.

After a new, equitable county highway fund distribution formula has been devised, we will support an increase in motor fuel taxes to be returned to counties for use in county road and bridge maintenance and construction programs.

### **Highway Development and Funding**

We believe upgrading and improving existing roads and highways is preferable to building additional freeways, limited access highways, toll roads or turnpikes.

We urge that efficiencies be achieved in the operation of the Kansas Department of Transportation and that assurance be provided to protect against misuse of funds through bid-rigging or any other fraud.

We support the concept of highway users paying, through gallonage taxes and vehicle registration fees, for the construction and maintenance of highways, roads and bridges.

In order to finance the maintenance of our state highway system, and to assist in the funding of our county road and bridge programs, we will support an increase in motor fuel taxes in the 1983 Session of the Kansas Legislature of four cents (4¢) per gallon

PROVIDED local units of government, which received **nothing** from the last (1976) increase, are allocated at least 50% of the revenues of any additional motor fuel taxes.

In addition to supporting a 4¢ motor fuel tax increase we recommend that the Legislature give serious consideration to including in the same 1983 legislation a programmed increase of motor fuel taxes for a period of years beyond 1983, with the revenues to be divided equally between state and local units of government.

Toll road and turnpike construction in Kansas should not be contemplated unless a feasibility study on any such project shows the toll road or turnpike will pay its own way.

We are opposed to the use of any highway revenue or State General Fund revenue to guarantee toll road or turnpike bonds.

Highway design and planning should avoid, where feasible, diagonal routing. Diagonal cuts are most disruptive to agricultural operations.

### **Motor Vehicle Registration Fees**

We strongly urge enactment of legislation to provide increased weight limits, with proportionally higher registration fees, for trucks or truck-tractors owned by a person engaged in farming and used by such owner to transport agricultural products or commodities.

We will support legislation to provide that pickup trucks in the "12,000 pounds or less" category pay a standard registration fee, and that pickups owned by bona fide farmers continue to receive a farm tag designation.

### **Trucking Deregulation**

We believe trucking (motor carrier) regulations are counter-productive and without benefit to shippers. Economic deregulation could provide greater competition in transportation. Energy conservation could result from backhaul opportunities. It should not take an action by a regulatory body, at the national or state level, for entry into a private enterprise endeavor such as trucking.

We urge the Kansas Legislature to deregulate the trucking industry.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Agricultural Hall of Fame and National Center— Bonner Springs, Kansas**

The Agricultural Hall of Fame and National Center at Bonner Springs, Kansas, is set up as a shrine to honor those who have contributed to our great agricultural industry, and to preserve and display agricultural machinery.

Since this is an Agricultural Shrine, we would ask every farmer and rancher in Kansas to make a financial contribution to the Agricultural Hall of Fame.

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Statement of the  
KANSAS LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION  
to the  
House Agriculture & Livestock Committee  
Rep. Bill Fuller, Chairman  
with reference to  
State Meat Inspection  
presented by  
Dee Likes  
Executive Secretary, Feedlot Division  
January 27, 1983

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Dee Likes and I represent the Kansas Livestock Association. KLA is a voluntary commodity organization representing livestock producers in the state of Kansas who are involved in literally every facet of livestock production, including cattle, swine and sheep operations. Additionally, the members of our association are normally involved in numerous other types of agricultural operations including grain production, grain warehousing, forage production, meat processing, etc. It has been the position of the Kansas Livestock Association for a number of years to support the retention of the state operated meat inspection program.

We fully realize the tight revenue situation currently being experienced by state government. We also appreciate and sympathize with the difficult task of determining budget priorities this situation presents to the governor, his budget director and the administrative staff. Understandably, the administration has attempted to eliminate a program from the state budget which would automatically be picked up and assumed by the federal government. In this instance we believe it would be a serious error to simply take the easy way out and once again allow the "feds" to take control.

In the material distributed to this committee by the governor's budget staff there exists a summary of the state inspected meat and poultry plants which will experience deficiencies in relation to the federal guidelines. Of the 190 plants which were surveyed by the Kansas Board of Agriculture the data indicates there were at least 15 separate types of deficiencies. I realize that the budget staff is not of the opinion these deficiencies would cause serious economic harm to the small family owned meat processors and locker plant operators but I ask you to direct your attention to the last two pages of the material distributed by the budget

*Atch. 2*

staff titled "Review of Deficiencies". According to that data, 140 plants would not qualify for the federal guidelines because they do not contain a meat inspector's office. In the review it is pointed out that federal regulations may not force compliance "at the discretion of the administrator". Deficiency #3, "inadequate employee welfare facilities" (rest rooms) would be a problem for 80 plants. Again, in the review, it is pointed out that such dressing rooms and/or rest rooms "may not be necessary". I assume this would again be "at the discretion of the administrator". Deficiency #4, "rails too low or close to a stationary object", the review indicates that carcasses "may" have to be quartered or otherwise divided before they could be hung or transported. In my opinion, this is a good example of an arbitrary "nitpicking" type of regulation. The federal government has already approved the Kansas meat inspection program as being "equal to" the federal program in quality and wholesomeness. I cannot see why, if the product is already considered to be of acceptable quality and wholesomeness, the height of the rails should be significant. I also understand that for a significant number of the state meat processors and locker plants raising the rails would be a major capital expenditure.

I have heard from numerous owners and operators of state inspection meat processing plants of their concern of beginning to deal with a federal inspector who operates at the direction of the bureaucracy based in Washington, D.C. I understand and share that concern. As many of you know, KLA is involved in a great multitude of activities in behalf of the livestock industry in Kansas. One of the jobs that occupies a great deal of our staff time is the troubleshooting service we perform on behalf of our members. We frequently deal with agencies of local, state and federal government. As one who frequently deals with the Washington bureaucracy I can tell you it is almost impossible to exaggerate the difficulty that is experienced in dealing with a faceless bureaucrat on the other end of a long distance telephone line who is working with an inflexible set of regulations. Believe me, it doesn't get much better when the agency has more discretionary regulatory language such as that embodied in part 307 of the federal regulations. We have repeatedly heard assurances that USDA would give the state inspected plants in Kansas up to three years to comply with federal regulations and then "at the discretion of the administrator" some regulations would not be enforced at all. It seems a little odd to me that we are being assured that the federal government "at the discretion of the administrator" of the federal meat inspection program will not enforce its own laws and regulations. Frankly, I have great difficulty in taking much comfort from those assurances.

KLA believes it will be beneficial to those Kansans residing in small Kansas towns and the surrounding rural areas to maintain the state meat inspection program because we are convinced that a significant number of the small family owned meat processing and locker plants will eventually either be forced to close down completely or incur a significant amount of expense if Kansas does not continue to fund this program. I'm sure this committee already realizes that in many, many cases that small town meat processing business is the largest employer in town. I also want to emphasize that the local meat processors provide a real service to the livestock industry of this state. It is extremely common for our members to use these local meat processors, not only for their own butchering needs, but as an additional market for their livestock. In some areas, the local meat processor may be an active bidder on feedlot cattle. The current system provides a real convenience for a large number of farmers and ranchers across the state and our association does not want anything to damage it.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to point out that it has been clearly demonstrated that the state meat inspection department has operated effectively and ef-

ficiently and has made extremely good use of the taxpayer dollars over the years. I also want to re-emphasize that this issue was thoroughly reviewed in 1976 by a special legislative interim committee that concluded the state meat inspection program should be continued. We agree with that conclusion and we urge this committee to give its strongest recommendation to the House Ways & Means Committee that funding for the state meat inspection program be included in the State Board of Agriculture budget.



# Kansas Pork Producers Council

## CHAIRMAN FULLER & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I am Doyle Talkington representing the Kansas Pork Producers Council.

We are here to express our concerns about removing from the budget, \$1.1 million for state meat inspection in Kansas.

It is ridiculous to even think of dropping \$1.1 million out of only \$11.7 million being spent on Kansas agriculture excluding our educational institutes. With Kansas being an agriculture state and a budget of \$3 billion, which is mostly dollars generated by agriculture and agriculture-related business, we suggest any agriculture budget cuts be closely scrutinized.

The state inspected meat processors generate more sales tax, \$1.4 million, than what it costs to implement the state meat inspection program.

The 245 meat processing plants, including custom plants, employ over 1000 personnel who pay sales tax and property taxes in their local communities.

Unemployment is high enough in Kansas, without adding the possibility of 50 to 60 state employed families losing their jobs.

Half of the 137 state inspected meat processing plants that would need renovation could possibly close causing another 237 families to be out of work. That totals almost 300 families out of work, drawing unemployment, maybe welfare for some; and not paying taxes. In other words, an increased burden on the state.

The economic impact the smaller meat processing plants could have on smaller communities would be drastic, if forced to close. Many processors would be forced to locate somewhere else.

We are concerned that custom processing plants without regular inspections would become unwholesome. It is a fact, proven in Missouri, that custom plants are not inspected on any regular basis because the U.S.D.A. has no provision for licensing or regulating custom plants.

It is not legal for custom plants to sell meat to consumers unless they buy meat already state inspected. Going to Federal regulations would allow breeding grounds for illegal sale of uninspected meat in Kansas.

State meat inspection in Kansas is giving customers a needed service in their community and consumers a quality wholesome product.

Pork producers use many of these plants on a regular basis and do not wish to see a burden placed on either the plant, community, or themselves.

There is no guarantee, if Federal inspection was to take place, that 137 meat processors would not have to renovate their facilities, which many could not afford to do.

There is a bill being introduced in the Federal government by Representative Steve Gunderson, Wisconsin and Senator Daniel Inouye

of Hawaii that will allow state inspected meat to be sold interstate, but not exported out of the United States. If this bill passes, some state meat processors will be able to increase their volume, putting them on a better financial basis, and increasing sales tax, and possibly employment.

The Kansas Pork Producers Council supports and encourages the continuation of the state meat inspection program.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doyle Talkington". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Doyle Talkington  
Executive Vice President