

Approved: 2-9-95
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Corbin at 10:00 a.m. on February 7, 1995 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Quorum was present.

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Lila McClafin, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dee Likes, Kansas Livestock Association
Ivan Wyatt, Kansas Farmers Union
Bill Craven, Kansas Natural Resource Council, Kansas Sierra Club, Common Cause
Bill Fuller, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending: See attached list

The Chairperson called for action on the minutes of February 2. Senator Morris moved to adopt the minutes. Senator Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The hearing on **SB 16 - creating a department of agriculture, secretary appointed by the governor; creating an agriculture advisory board appointed by the governor.**

Dee Likes testified in support of **SB 61**. They believe it is a relatively straight forward proposal for the Governor to appoint the Secretary and to also appoint an advisory board (Attachment 1).

Ivan W. Wyatt stated at their state convention a majority of their members supported establishment of a Department of Agriculture, and a Secretary appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate (Attachment 2). Mr. Wyatt responded to questions.

Bill Craven supported the legislation as they believe the structure set forth is clean and easy. It is uniform with regard to cabinet appointees, and places agriculture in the cabinet, which, is where they believe it should be (Attachment 3). He responded to questions.

Joe Lieber, Kansas Cooperative Council, written testimony supporting **SB 61** was distributed (Attachment 4).

Also, Jamie Clover Adams, Kansas Grain and Feed Association and Kansas Fertilizer and Chemical Association, written testimony supporting **SB 61** was distributed (Attachment 5).

The hearing for the opponents was opened.

Bill Fuller spoke in opposition to **SB 61**. He said consideration of the policy adopted by Farm Bureau at their annual meeting would be appreciated. A copy of their policy is included with his testimony (Attachment 6).

The hearing on **SB 61** was closed.

Hand outs were distributed on "**SB 47 - the exotic animal bill**. Written testimony from Davy Harkins, DVM, Eldorado Animal Clinic, stated he would be glad to help put useable regulations together, however **SB 47** as currently written does not define or properly address the problem (Attachment 7). Written testimony from J. Cooper, Cooper's Exotic Farm, expresses concerns with the idea of producers and exotic livestock market operators to be licensed under the Agriculture Department and the unusually high licensing fees are a

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Room 423-S Statehouse, at 10:00 a.m. on February 7, 1995.

big concern to them. They would be happy to work to make the legislation acceptable for the public and the exotic animal producers (Attachment 8).

Chairperson Corbin stated Davy Harkins, DVM from Eldorado, is the veterinary that was involved with the incident in Butler County last year. He urged members of the Committee to review his testimony.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 1995.

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 2-7-95

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jean Wilgath	Ks Farmers Union
Bill Fuller	Kansas Farm Bureau
Deane Gruener	KS Co-op Council
Kenneth M. Wilke	Ks. Dept of Agriculture
Greg Krissch	KS Dept of Ag
Dob Lambly	KIDA
RAY HANER	BOEING
Bill Craven	KNRC/Siena
Mary Fund	Ks Rural Center
Chris Wilson	KS Seed Industry Ass'n
Karen Karber	Shyrum Ks
Matt Fink	AP
John Schlegel	Kansas Farm Bureau
Mary Jane Stottelman	KS Farm Bureau
Troy Burr	KS. Farm Bureau
Charles Benjamin	Sen. Downey
Allie Devine	KS Dept of Ag
Bill Fortney	Ks Vet Med Assn.
Catharine A. Deever	" " " "

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STATEMENT
OF THE
KANSAS LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION
TO THE
Senate Agriculture Committee
Senator David Corbin, Chairman
with respect to
SB 61
Presented by
Dee Likes
Executive Vice President
February 7, 1995

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing us to appear today on SB 61. As I'm sure the committee can appreciate, with so many aspects and various components of so many different bills, it's somewhat difficult to make a presentation that's clearly in favor of or opposed to a particular bill. Many of these bills are essentially hybrids, mixing new ideas with the old board of agriculture structure. We would hope to be able to help with the committee's deliberations in a discussion sort of manner as we sort through the advantages and disadvantages of various concepts. KLA's previous policy supported continuation of the "old" system, and since that is not possible any longer, we intend to stay flexible, at least until our members develop interim policy during our upcoming legislative meeting here in Topeka later this month.

SB 61 is a relatively straightforward proposal for the Governor to appoint the Secretary and to also appoint an advisory board.

If we are realistic, we must realize that this is an option which is likely to be viable after we honestly examine all the ramifications of the other proposals, which are not without some negative aspects. Arguably, most governors would seek to appoint a Secretary of Ag that would be acceptable to the agricultural community. The Senate confirmation process is the check and balance in case that person is not acceptable. The advisory board is a way, if managed properly, to achieve some direct input into the agency's policies and regulations from the industry it regulates. We believe one area that should be carefully scrutinized and questioned are the provisions which allow the Secretary to appoint assistant secretaries who would be division heads. One reason for our concern in this area is that it has seemed to us in the past, that having the division heads come from the classified service has lent a degree of continuity and consistency which otherwise might have been unobtainable.

We'd be happy to answer questions and try to provide constructive input into the committee's deliberations. Thank you.

*Senate Agr. Co
2-7-95
attachment 1*

Statement
of
Ivan W. Wyatt, President
Kansas Farmers Union

before

The Senate Agricultural Committee

on

Senate Bill 61

(Department and Secretary of Agricultural)

On February 7, 1995

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

A majority of the members of the Kansas Farmers Union, at their state convention held in McPherson in January, in a majority vote stated the following in the KFU policy statement:

"We recommend the establishment of a Department of Agriculture. We support the concept of a Secretary of Agriculture appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate."

There was strong support for an elected Secretary at the general election. The feeling was that each four years there would be a focus on agriculture, and that an elected secretary would be more independent to initiate and develop new programs and policies.

There was no support indicated for a legislated board, either as an advisory, regulatory or policy body. Our members felt the Governor and his Secretary should be free to seek the advice and consultation of whomever they might choose without legislated rules that could simply lead to another bureaucracy.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the members of the Kansas Farmers Union would prefer, of the three proposals of the Senate, Senate Bill 61 with an appointed secretary as a member of the executive branch of state government.

Thank you.

*Senate Agr. Co.
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attachment 2*



Kansas Natural Resource Council

P.O. Box 2635
Topeka, KS 66601-2635

Officers

President
Bill Ward, Lawrence

Vice President
Joan Vibert, Ottawa

Secretary
Ann Fell, Winfield

Treasurer
Art Thompson, Topeka

William J. Craven,
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701 Jackson
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Board of Ag Election Structure

Testimony of Bill Craven

Kansas Natural Resource Council, Kansas Sierra Club, and Common Cause

This testimony is presented on behalf the two groups which brought the lawsuit which prompts this legislative consideration of this issue. Additionally, this testimony reflects the views of the Kansas Sierra Club.

We support the provisions of S.B. 61. The bill provides for the creation of a department of agriculture within the executive branch of government. It correctly provides that the governor shall appoint the head of the ag agency, subject to confirmation by the senate. It abolishes the old Board of Ag, which was essentially abolished by the courts anyway. It consolidates rule and regulation authority by making clear that the secretary is in charge of administering these rules and regulations. (Currently, there are provisions assigning rules and regs in a helter-skelter fashion to the secretary, to the board, and even to division heads.)

This bill also provides for an advisory board whose members shall be appointed by the governor to staggered terms.

This bill clearly satisfies the requirement of the court case that a structure be created which satisfies the one person, one vote requirement of the federal constitution. We all elect the governor to be the top official of state government. Voting for or against the governor is how we hold the governor accountable for his or her appointments. If the governor makes these appointments, then there is no constitutional problem with the structure.

This bill will never result in any future litigation pertaining to the structure. There are no other constitutional questions lurking about. The same can't be said for some of the other proposals now pending. This bill doesn't continue the perception that the regulated community chooses the regulators. This bill doesn't interfere with the governor's power to remove the secretary, which is a possible problem with the proposals urging the creation of a new board structure.

The courts established a receivership for the agency with the governor allowed to make an appointment to head the agency. We now have a bi-partisan track record which proves that there is no reason to fear or distrust the governor's appointees to head the ag agency. Both Governor Finney and Governor Graves have shown that this appointment will be very carefully considered to reflect the diverse interests of agriculture.

In a sentence, this structure is clean and easy, is uniform with regard to cabinet appointees, and rightfully places agriculture in the cabinet, which, because of the industry's importance to all Kansans, is where it should be.

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attachment 3



TESTIMONY ON SB 61
Senate Agriculture Committee
February 7, 1995

Prepared by Joe Lieber
Kansas Cooperative Council

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I'm Joe Lieber, Executive Vice President of the Kansas Cooperative Council. The Council's membership consists of nearly 200 cooperative businesses having a combined total of nearly 200,000 members.

The Council was happy with the old way in which the Board of Agriculture was selected and the hiring of the Secretary of Agriculture. But, since that was declared unconstitutional, our choice would be the concepts expressed in Senate Bill 61.

We would be in favor of the Secretary of Agriculture being appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Our philosophy here is that governor-in and governor-out we would usually come up with a good appointee that would have to be confirmed by the Senate.

The Council also likes the provision in SB 61 that has the Governor appointing an advisory board.

We feel the advisory board would be a great asset to the Secretary of Agriculture and would also enable the Secretary to feel the pulse of the ag industry in Kansas.

Again, we support the idea of having the Secretary of Agriculture appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Thank you.

*Senate Ag Co
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attachment 4*

The following statement supporting S.B. 61 is submitted on behalf of both the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and the Kansas Fertilizer and Chemical Association (KFCA). While the two associations share staff, they have distinct memberships, separate boards of directors and association programs. KGFA's 1200 members include country elevators -- both independent and cooperative -- subterminal and terminal elevators, feed manufacturers, grain merchandisers and others who serve the industry. KFCA's nearly 500 members are primarily plant nutrient and crop protection retail dealers, but also include manufacturer's representatives, distribution firms, and equipment manufacturers.

Producing food for the consumer is an interdependent activity. While the farmer and rancher are at the core producing the raw commodity, other segments of food production are necessary to get food to the American consumer. While feed manufacturers, grain elevators and plant nutrient and crop protection dealers cannot survive without farmers and ranchers, so to do they depend upon us to provide nutrients for the soil and protection from pests, feed for high efficiency conversion of livestock and an efficient marketing system for Kansas wheat. No clearer example exists than that of the former Soviet Union. While they have the tillable land, they do not have the infrastructure to get commodities to market nor add value to them. Russian citizens still stand in line to buy what we have come to take for granted. We all, both producers and consumers, have a stake in insuring that Kansas agriculture remains healthy and efficient continuing to provide safe and inexpensive food to the consumer.

Jamie Clover Adams

*Senate Ag Co
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Attachment 5

KGFA and KFCA believe a Secretary of Agriculture appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate best serves the long-term interests of the food and fiber system in Kansas. This method of selection is most conducive to holding elected officials accountable to Kansas citizens and the confirmation process provides a necessary check and balance. Further, as Kansas and the nation continue to urbanize it is even more important for Agriculture to have a strong leader at the Department to allow all of Kansas agriculture to work together to spread a positive message about food production. Food safety is an ever growing concern for many citizens. Without a leader spreading a coherent message about how we grow our food and why we do what we do, more and more unfounded restraints will be put on food production. Finally, some would argue we cannot be sure a future Governor will chose an individual who understands and appreciates modern agriculture. We would counter that when agriculture accounts for 18% of the Gross National Product and 22 million jobs in this county, no Governor of an agricultural state will leave the agency in the hands of an individual who does not appreciate and want a strong and productive agricultural sector.

KGFA and KFCA support the appointment of an advisory board as outlined in S.B. 61. Such a panel will provide expertise to the Secretary, as well as another layer of accountability. If the advisory board believes the Secretary has made a decision contrary to the best interests of Kansas agriculture they can speak with the Governor, organize their grassroots and hold the Secretary accountable.

Finally, while KGFA and KFCA support permitting the Secretary to bring his or her own management team to the Department, we do not advocate the appointment of division heads as outlined in S.B. 61.

Throughout the debate over what form the organization at the Department should take, one common theme emerges -- a concern for continuity. Replacing division heads with appointees truly erases continuity. A good many laws and regulations are very technical and at times arcane. Personnel with this expertise are needed to efficiently and effectively administer the laws. Yes, the Secretary must be able to bring his or her own people to the agency to assure his or her vision is being implemented. However, this should not extend to Division heads whose technical expertise and experience is sorely needed.

In closing, KGFA and KFCA support S.B. 61. It best serves agriculture today and also looks to the future and what agriculture may look like 50 years from now. Any questions may be directed to Jamie Clover Adams, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, 234-0461.



PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

RE: S.B. 61 - Creates the Department of Agriculture with the Secretary appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and creates the Kansas Agriculture Advisory Board.

February 7, 1995
Topeka, Kansas

Presented by:
Bill Fuller, Associate Director
Public Affairs Division
Kansas Farm Bureau

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Bill Fuller. I am the Associate Director of the Public Affairs Division at Kansas Farm Bureau. We appreciate this opportunity today to testify in opposition to S.B. 61.

Farmers and ranchers are directly impacted by the programs and regulations administered by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. For that reason, the more than 430 Voting Delegates representing the 105 county Farm Bureaus have adopted policy at the last two Kansas Farm Bureau Annual meetings on the appropriate structure of the agency. A year ago, Farm Bureau members expressed their support of the current organizational structure and requested no changes be made until there was an opportunity for a ruling by the federal appeals court.

Our members appreciate the fact that the Kansas State Board of

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Agriculture provided more than 120 years of outstanding service to Kansas agriculture, in fact to all Kansas citizens. The Board avoided partisan political squabbles because it was non-partisan. All Kansans benefited from the continuity of administering programs and regulations since the leadership was not affected when changes occurred in the Governor's office. In addition, the Board was producer-sensitive. It knew how to work with farmers, ranchers, agri-business and general business to achieve maximum benefits for all Kansans.

Delegates to the most recent Kansas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting said the 1995 Kansas Legislature should give careful consideration to enactment of one of three alternative methods to establish a State Board of Agriculture. On November 19, 1994, KFB Policy was debated, revised and adopted (attached).

An examination of Farm Bureau policy reveals three important provisions:

1. A Board of Agriculture should be established;
2. The Board should select the Secretary; and
3. The Secretary should be confirmed by the Senate.

S.B. 61 authorizes the Governor to appoint the Secretary. This is in conflict with adopted Farm Bureau Policy. Our members recommend the Board select the Secretary. The bill also requires confirmation of the Secretary by the Senate. The confirmation provision is compatible with policy adopted by Farm Bureau farm and ranch members.

S.B. 61 creates a nine-member Kansas Agriculture Advisory Board appointed by the Governor. Farm Bureau policy also seeks re-establishment of a Board. However, our members prefer a system be

devised in selecting the Board that allows broad grassroots input. Adopted KFB Policy suggests three alternative methods for establishing a board:

1. Election from geographic district;
2. Expanded delegate assembly of agricultural producers and consumers; or
3. Nomination by certified producer, consumer and agribusiness organizations.

A number of bills have been introduced concerning restructuring the Kansas Department of Agriculture. We testified on S.B. 62 last week and supported many of its provisions. We trust hearings will be held on other bills containing alternative organizational structures that are acceptable to our membership.

We certainly appreciate your consideration of adopted Farm Bureau policy as you consider a new structure for the Kansas Department of Agriculture. We respectfully request the Committee not approve S.B. 61. Thank you!

State Board of Agriculture

AG-21

We strongly believe Kansas farmers should take a progressive and pro-active approach in shaping legislation to establish both a Kansas Department and a State Board of Agriculture.

We support continuation of all current duties and responsibilities of all existing divisions within the Board/Kansas Department of Agriculture.

We believe the Kansas Legislature should give careful consideration in 1995 to enactment of one of the three alternative methods listed for establishing a State Board of Agriculture:

1. Provide for a broadly-based delegate assembly of agricultural producers and consumers to elect members of the State Board of Agriculture, or
2. Provide a constitutionally permissible procedure for election of the State Board of Agriculture from geographic districts, or
3. Devise a system for members to be nominated by certified producer, consumer and agribusiness organizations. Appointments to be made by the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House from this list of nominees.

The State Board of Agriculture should continue to select, and the Kansas Senate should continue to confirm the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture.

El Dorado Animal Clinic
111 E. Locust
El Dorado, Ks 67042
316-321-1050

February 3, 1995

State Senate Agricultural Committee
Kansas Senate House
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Senate Bill 47

Dear Sir:

I am a veterinarian practicing in a mixed animal clinic since 1971 in El Dorado, Kansas. I have been involved with wild and exotic species for most of that time. I have seen many problems with the keeping of these animals that need to be addressed, but I still feel it should be possible for a citizen to keep them if he can do so without abusing the animal or putting other people at risk.

In the newspaper article I read, there was mention of "inherently dangerous animals". This term would include all the horses as well as the bovine bulls in Kansas if not properly defined. I have seen numerous dogs as dangerous as most of the wolf hybrids I have treated, and have seen first hand the discrimination of the "Pit Bull" ordinances that banned a breed instead of the problem. Now this problem is shifting to the rottweiler breed, and the ordinances are obsolete. If this mentality had been present in 1900, none of us would know much about the bison as it is also an inherently dangerous animal, but thankfully some people saw fit back then to allow them to survive.

While I feel that these animals should be permitted to be kept, I also feel that their confinement should be monitored to ensure that they are not abused or neglected and that they do not pose a threat to innocent neighbors.

Housing sizes, as well as material permitted for containment, should be spelled out and listed as a minimum standard with stronger or larger enclosures allowed. The USDA standards I have seen are not sufficient as they only provide an animal limited mobility and are not written for long term confinement of non-domesticated animals. Chickens in a laying house are kept to USDA standards.

Licensing fees for owners should be sufficient to ensure inspection of facilities but not so high as to effectively legislate a ban by economics. Private practice veterinarians might be considered for inspections where they are highly knowledgeable and available.

I was told the suggestion was made to require a seller to report the sale of exotic animals within one week. If this was put into the

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bill, a penalty should also be included for non-compliance such as one to five dollars per day per offense.

The exotic animal area is one which needs regulated, with some agency specifically charged with enforcement. In my opinion, there should be means to require a certain standard of care while still allowing competent individuals the experience of knowing these magnificent creatures.

I knew of the lion on the log chain that mauled a girl in Butler County for six months prior to the incident, and knew she was a time-bomb, but could not find anyone in authority to address the problem.

This is America--people are allowed to do crazy things as long as it doesn't put other people at risk.

I would be happy to help put a usable regulation together. I feel Bill 47 as currently written does not define or properly address the problem.

Sincerely,


Davy Harkins, DVM

DH/khd

Cooper's Exotic Farm
19701 178 St.
Tonganoxie, KS 66086
Jan. 29, 1995

Department of Agriculture

To Whom it may concern:

With the introduction of Bill # 47 many concerns have been raised. The idea of producers and exotic livestock market operators to be licensed under the Agriculture Department and the unusually high licensing fees are my biggest concerns.

With the Nov. election I thought the people sent the clear message that we don't want big government. Certain areas of exotic wildlife and livestock may need to be overseen but the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department already does that. They give the possession permit as well as the game breeders permit for such exotics as are covered in Bill #47. The federal government also covers such exotics under the U.S.D.A. and the U.S.D.I.

The Agriculture Dept. is already in charge of domestic livestock and the aspects surrounding them. When we have the high rate of abuse in puppy mills and the lack of inspectors and veterinarians involved in the livestock auctions how can you expect to take on more responsibility? The Wildlife and Parks have the game wardens and the knowledge for inspecting and governing the exotic industry. If you take control of the exotic livestock and wildlife it won't be any better than it is now it will be worse. You don't have the time or the manpower to oversee what you already have control of. You should get your own house in order before you start pointing your finger at someone else and the few faults they may have.

If it is a matter of the welfare of the animals our existing laws are sufficient. The problem is a lack of clear definitions of the laws. Nether the state or the federal governments can tell us what is acceptable in regards to our facilities. There are laws that do specify the type of cages to be used at exotic livestock markets but some market operators don't enforce them. The truth is I have only seen a few bad cages in all the sales I have gone to throughout 10 years in the industry. This is where the problem is. Don't add to the law. Clear it up and enforce it.

I have raised cougars for 6 years and have never had any problems with the game wardens or inspectors. When a new regulation or law was made I was given ample time to comply and I did. But Bill #47 is going overboard with all the paper work and application fees. It also has very vague wording. In Sec. 11(d) it seems to say at any time the secretary can adopt new rules and regulations and we must comply to them. It says they must be published but just like these hearings I didn't know about them until just three days before they were to start. How can anyone change the rules or regulations if they don't seek the advise of those most involved and knowledgeable of the subject? In Sec. 15(e) it gives no standards for caging and maintenance. How are we to know what will be acceptable or not? The people in this

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industry should be involved with such important matters. We know what works and is healthy for our animals and safe for the public.

The paper work that you are asking for is going to be more red tape. Under the laws for the game breeders permit we must already submit proof of purchase, changes in wildlife possession such as sales and death. We must also give sales receipts to the buyers and send copies to the secretary. We must also provide health papers with the animals when sold or when taken to any livestock market. Why the big change? Don't punish the rest of us for the misleading and sometimes out right illegal practises of a few people.

I raised my cougars from 3 months of age. They get fed every day and have water at all times. They are kept in two chain link pens 15' x 15' with a covered top. They also have a 30' x 30' play pen that they can run and play in when I let them. They get wormed regularly and their food is supplemented with vitamins. These are not just a novelty animal to have they are my beloved pets. They have different personalities and different likes and dislikes. I know these cats like you may know your dog. I've put a lot of time and money into their care. Why would I mistreat them? Just like any animal their care is based on the person owning them. Exotic wildlife and livestock are not cheap animals to buy or own. If they are not properly cared for they will die and you are out hundred and possibly thousands of dollars. Domestic animals are not as expensive or hard to care for and it is my belief that they are in a more vulnerable position for abuse.

Exotic wildlife and livestock are like any other animal, including domesticated ones, in that they can be dangerous. The incidences of exotics causing injures to people is minute in the site of domestic dogs and cats. In Wyandotte county alone there have been 649 dog and cat attacks. There were 6 incidences of exotic wildlife attacks according to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks in Pratt and one of them was an attack on someone's dog not a person. When an exotic animal does injure or attack a person in almost every situation it was the persons fault and it is the owner or the care taker of the animal that is injured. This is not the case with dogs and cats. It is a child playing or just wanting to pet the animal or a postal carrier that is injured. In the same situation the exotic animal is accused of being wild and we are told they should not be kept in captivity but if it is a domestic dog no one knows why they attacked and no one is to blame. Why are there not stricter laws concerning such dogs as pitbulls, dobermans, rottweilers or german shepherds?

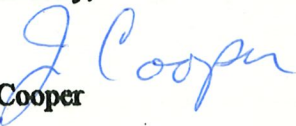
My last question is why is the red deer singled out and prohibited from the state? It is no different than any other deer. They can all carry the same diseases and under the existing laws all deer are required to be tested for diseases. I see no reason to prohibit red deer into the state or any other exotic wildlife. If the federal government allows them into the country they should be allowed into any state. If a person has laid out the expense of such an animal they will also have proper fencing and housing to care for the animal. It is just like any other exotic animal. The producer has invested time and money into it, why would they want to lose it to death, from disease or improper diet or lose it from improper fencing allowing it to escape? Any concern of an animal escaping is a valid one, but because of our requirements for fencing this is unlikely. If the same laws applied to dog owners we would be putting the dog catchers out of business.

Because there are so many questionable areas to this bill, areas that increase government and impose an undue burden on hard working citizens just trying to produce an income from something they love, I feel it should not even be brought up for a vote. If at any time in the future revisions need to be made to the existing laws a committee should be formed consisting of both law makers, enforcers, exotic wildlife

producers and market operators. This would insure fair laws and no resistance to the compliance of the laws.

Thank you for allowing me to make my concerns and objections known. I know you will take them into account in making your decision. It is my hope that we can work together in this area of exotic wildlife and livestock to make it more acceptable to the public and profitable to the animals.

Sincerely,


J Cooper