

Approved: 1-21-99  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on January 20, 1999 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Christine Downey  
Senator Robert Tyson

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes  
Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Gary Hall, President, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending: (see attached)

Senator Umbarger made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14, 1999 meeting as submitted. Senator Huelskamp seconded. Motion carried.

Hearing on:

**SCR 1602 Urging the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to provide greater opportunities to the farmers of the United States by taking greater advantage of the export enhancement program**

**SCR 1605 Urging Congress to remove or restrict the use of trade sanctions as they apply to agricultural products**

Gary Hall, President, Kansas Farm Bureau, testified in support of **SCR 1602** and **SCR 1605**, stating that farmers and ranchers from all 50 states developed public policy on exports and fair trade at their 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation last week (Attachment 1). He recommended these resolutions be sent to additional individuals.

Written testimony was submitted by Doug Wareham, Kansas Grain and Feed Association, in support of **SCR 1605** (Attachment 2).

Senator Huelskamp made a motion to amend **SCR 1605** to address the issue of economic sanction imposed by other countries on United States agricultural products and to amend both **SCR 1602** and **SCR 1605** to include the President of the United States, Vice-President of the United States, Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and the Speaker, Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives to receive copies of both resolutions. Senator Clark seconded. Motion carried.

Senator Stephens made a motion to pass **SCR 1602** favorably as amended. Senator Umbarger seconded and the motion carried.

Senator Clark made a motion to pass **SCR 1605** favorably as amended. Senator Stephens seconded. Motion carried.

Senator Morris will draft a letter to agriculture committee chairpersons in other states urging them to adopt resolutions similar to **SCR 1602** and **SCR 1605** and send them to Washington, D.C. also.

The next meeting will be January 21, 1999.





# PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

## SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

**SCR 1602 – Urging the Secretary of USDA to expand the use of the Export Enhancement Program.**

**SCR 1605 – Urging Congress to remove or restrict the use of trade sanctions on agricultural products.**

**January 20, 1999**

**Presented By:  
Gary Hall, President  
Kansas Farm Bureau**

Chairman Morris and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, I certainly appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today to comment on issues important to farmers and ranchers. I am Gary Hall and I have the distinct privilege of serving as president of Kansas Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau is a voluntary, general farm organization with members, an organization and offices in all 105 Kansas counties.

The U.S. Congress approved the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996. "Freedom to Farm" allows farmers to farm for the markets, rather than to farm for the government. Other cornerstones to the success of this new approach of removing government from farming in America were:

- ◆ Expanded export markets.
- ◆ Regulatory reform.
- ◆ Tax reform.

*Senate Agriculture  
1-20-99  
Attachment 1*

Farm Bureau supports the freedom to farm, but insists that marketing, regulatory and tax reforms must be implemented in order for our farmers and ranchers to compete and survive in the world economy.

We commend and thank those Senators who demonstrated the wisdom and provided the leadership in introducing the resolutions under consideration in this committee today. SCR 1602 urges the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to expand the use of the Export Enhancement Program. SCR 1605 asks the U.S. Congress to remove or restrict the trade sanctions as they apply to agricultural products. Expanding export markets and halting sanctions are keys that are vital to the prosperity, perhaps even the survival of the American farmer. The farmer's opportunity to export grains and livestock to consumers around the world is also important to maintaining a strong economy, not only in Kansas, but nationally.

Farmers and ranchers from all 50 states spoke with a strong and unified voice as they developed public policy on exports and fair trade at the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation last week. In expressing strong support for the Export Enhancement Program (EEP), new policy was developed and approved stating:

- ◆ Congress should fully fund EEP and USDA should utilize all of the funds appropriated.
- ◆ All agricultural products should be eligible for access to EEP funds.
- ◆ We support fair compensation for lost agricultural income as called for in the Trade Compensation and Assistance Act of 1978 and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 for all existing and future sanctions.
- ◆ We support opening negotiations to resume normal trading relations with Cuba.
- ◆ The U.S. government needs to revisit and enhance its procedures and responsibilities to protect U.S. interests toward NAFTA, WTO and other free trade agreements to increase oversight and reporting and enforcement of unfair practices of nations with respect to:
  1. Dumping commodities;
  2. Subsidizing transportation and commodities;
  3. Influence of exchange rates;

4. Labeling country of origin and quality of inspection;
5. Excessive market fluctuation and/or influence; and
6. Sanctions and embargoes that affect U.S. agriculture.

Today, we are a part of a world economy. Agriculture is no exception. In fact, agriculture's access to world markets may be more vital than for any other industry because of the ability of farmers and ranchers to produce an abundance of food and fiber at a very affordable price.

It is no secret many agricultural producers are dealing with economic pain. Livestock and grain prices are low. Weather has been a challenge for others. All this makes action today even more important. Therefore, we encourage passage of SCR 1602 and SCR 1605 and ask this committee to provide the leadership in sending a strong message to Washington, D.C. that we in Kansas oppose trade sanctions and support the Export Enhancement Program. We believe that message should be sent to the President of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Secretary of the USDA, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of State and each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our comments on these issues that are so important to agricultural producers and the nations economy. I will be pleased to respond to any questions.

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**Statement of**

**Kansas Grain and Feed Association**

**to the**

**Senate Agriculture Committee**

**Regarding S.C.R. 1605**

**Senator Steve Morris, Chairman**

**January 20, 1999**

*Senate Agriculture*

**KGFA, promoting a viable business  
climate through sound public policy for more  
than a century.**



*1-20-99  
Attachment 2*

The following statement is submitted on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA). The KGFA is a voluntary state association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in the state of Kansas. Our membership includes over 1,250 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state.

KGFA supports Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1605, which calls for Congress to remove or restrict the use of trade sanctions as they apply to agricultural products produced in Kansas and the United States. Today, Kansas grain producers and the Kansas grain receiving, storing and processing industry truly compete on a worldwide scale for market opportunities for Kansas grown commodities. With the advent of new technologies in agricultural production, the need to create new markets and capture world market share will become even more important to the Kansas grain trade and their farmer customers in the future.

Currently, economic sanctions imposed by the United States Congress directly impede the ability of Kansas commodities to reach numerous countries around the globe. Congress should restrict the use of sanctions against agricultural products to situations where positive results are a certainty. To do otherwise only jeopardizes the economic viability of the Kansas and U.S. grain production industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written statement. If you have questions or require additional information please contact Doug Wareham, KGFA Vice President of Government Affairs at (785) 234-0461.