

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on February 28, 2001, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Faber - excused
Representative Flora - absent
Representative Thimesch - excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rebecca Reed, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Todd Johnson, Executive Secretary, Purebred Division, Kansas Livestock Association
Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau
Doug Wareham, Vice President, Government Affairs, Kansas Grain and Feed Association

Others attending: See attached list

Hearing and action on SB 60 - Repealing the statute requiring the statistics division of the department of agriculture to work with county appraisers to collect agricultural data from producers.

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SB 60**. Raney Gilliland explained that this bill would repeal a section of law that requires county appraisers statewide to collect agricultural data from all producers within each county, then to submit the data to the Statistics Division of the Kansas Department of Agriculture for compilation and publication in the biennial reports of the agency.

Rebecca Reed, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **SB 60**. She explained that due to changes in the state property tax code, this method of data collection has become ineffective in accomplishing the original goal of identifying new producers and has become a burden to county appraisers. The Department believes that expanding the Agriculture Statistics Division's end-of-year acreage and production surveys, combined with the five-year census data, and follow-up telephone calls, will result in better, more abundant data. (Attachment 1)

A copy of a letter from Paul Welcome, Johnson County Appraiser and legislative chair for the Kansas County Appraisers' Association, was submitted in support of **SB 60**. (Attachment 2)

There being no other conferees, the Chairman closed the hearing and opened discussion on **SB 60**. Representative Feuerborn moved to recommend SB 60 be passed, and because the bill is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Ostmeyer, the motion carried.

Hearing and action on HCR 5014 - Concurrent Resolution urging Congress to allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat.

Todd Johnson, Executive Secretary, Purebred Division, Kansas Livestock Association, appeared in support of **HCR 5014** encouraging federal legislation to allow state inspected meat processing plants to ship their products across state lines. (Attachment 3)

Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, expressed Farm Bureau's support for **HCR 5014** urging Congress to enact revisions to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow the interstate shipment and marketing of meat products by state inspected meat processing facilities. (Attachment 4)

CONTINUATION SHEET

The Kansas Department of Agriculture submitted written testimony in support of **HCR 5014** stating that state-inspected meat and poultry processing plants in Kansas and across the nation have proven to USDA reviewers that they can meet standards "equal to" those imposed on federally inspected plants; therefore, it is only fair that state-inspected plant owners be permitted to market their products anywhere in the United States. (Attachment 5)

Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **HCR 5014** and opened the floor for discussion. Representative Hutchins moved to recommend HCR 5014 be adopted, and because the resolution is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Dahl, the motion carried.

Hearing on HCR 5017 - Concurrent Resolution urging the President and Congress to remove all embargoes and trade sanctions involving agricultural products.

Doug Wareham, Vice President, Government Affairs, Kansas Grain and Feed Association, appeared in support of **HCR 5017** urging the President and Congress to remove or restrict the use of trade sanctions as they apply to agricultural products produced in Kansas and the United States. Mr. Wareham reported that he had visited with someone in Congressman Jerry Moran's office concerning trade sanctions and was told that on October 28, 2001, public law 106-387 was passed requiring that trade sanctions involving agriculture products must be approved by both houses of Congress and that any unilateral sanctions would expire after 2 years. (Attachment 6)

Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, testified in support of **HCR 5017** urging the President and Congress to remove all embargoes and trade sanctions involving agricultural products. In light of Mr. Wareham's testimony, he expressed appreciation for what apparently has already been done and suggested further research and possible rewording of the resolution. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Johnson asked staff to check into recent federal legislation concerning trade sanctions on agricultural products and report back to the committee. The hearing on **HCR 5017** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2001.

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2001

NAME	REPRESENTING
<i>Lodd Johnson</i>	KLA
<i>Joel Lieber</i>	KS Co-op Council
<i>Sustin Holstin</i>	KS Co-op Council
<i>Roberta Reed</i>	KDA
<i>Bill Miller</i>	Kansas Farm Bureau
<i>Doug Wareham</i>	KGFA / KFCA
<i>Paul Johnson</i>	PAEK

STATE OF KANSAS

BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary of Agriculture

109 SW 9th Street

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1280

(785) 296-3556

FAX: (785) 296-8389



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

House Agriculture Committee

February 28, 2001

Testimony Regarding SB 60

Rebecca Reed, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture

Good afternoon Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee. I am Rebecca Reed, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Current law (K.S.A. 74-504d) requires the Statistics Division of the Kansas Department of Agriculture to work with county appraisers statewide to collect agricultural data from all producers within each county. Due to changes in the state property tax code, this method of data collection has become ineffective in accomplishing the original goal of identifying new producers, and it has become a burden to our county appraisers.

When the 1978 legislature passed this provision, producers were required to provide, for tax purposes, information on all agriculture machinery, livestock and production on hand. It was common for an individual to go to the county appraiser's office to provide this information, at which time the producer's name and address would be recorded. A change made to the tax law in 1989 exempted all farm machinery, equipment, livestock and production, so the routine visit to the county appraiser's office to fill out forms is no longer practiced. To comply with current law, however, the Statistics Division still supplies each county appraiser with survey forms and mailing labels for all known producers within that appraiser's county. The survey forms are mailed to producers and collected by the appraiser, who returns them to the Agriculture Statistics Division to be processed. The information is then used to update the Kansas agriculture producer database and to provide county-level data for Kansas Farm Facts, an annual publication of the

House Agriculture Committee
February 28, 2001
Attachment 1

Agriculture Statistics Division. Out of the 50,000 to 60,000 farms in Kansas, this method garners approximately 16,000 responses.

To offset the loss of data caused by a repeal of K.S.A. 74-504d, the Agriculture Statistics Division will expand some of its end-of-year mailings from about 6,000 to 7,000 to around 10,000 to 12,000. The Agriculture Statistics Division currently mails two end-of-year acreage and production surveys. One is conducted in August and September and the other one in November and December. The Division also sends special criteria mailings to producers who have not been selected recently on any of the Division's sample surveys. In addition to these surveys, the Agriculture Statistics Division now collects information for the five-year United States Census of Agriculture, a function it assumed after being designated the state office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service in 1997.

Expanding the end-of-year surveys, and supplementing the data collected from them with the five-year census data, will result in more abundant data, and resources will be allocated to provide for follow-up telephone calls on surveys not returned, a practice that currently is not employed due to insufficient resources.

I ask you to repeal of the current statute K.S.A. 74-504d. Thank you for your interest. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



January 26, 2001

Senator Derek Schmidt
State House Room 143 North
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: SB 60

Dear Honorable Senator Schmidt;

The Kansas County Appraisers' Association supports SB 60 and the repeal of KSA 74-504d.

I am the legislative chair for the Kansas County Appraisers' Association and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 913-715-0001.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Welcome, CAE
County Appraiser

✓ C: Ms. Rebecca Reed

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House Agriculture Committee
February 28, 2001
Attachment 2



Since 1894

To: The House Agriculture Committee
Representative Dan Johnson, Chairman

From: Todd Johnson, Executive Secretary, Purebred Division

Subject: Support of HCR 5014 - Interstate Shipment of State Inspected Meat

Date: February 28, 2001

For nearly 20 years the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) has supported federal legislation allowing state inspected meat processing plants to ship their products across state lines. We continue to support this change and consequently support this provision of HCR 5014.

State inspected plant operators have continually expressed their frustration to us about their inability to ship their goods across state lines. This is especially frustrating to plants located near our states' borders, who have close access to new marketing opportunities, but are not allowed to enter them.

Today, several of these small plants have developed specialty products. The current federal law, however, substantially restricts their ability to expand markets and grow their businesses. In most situations these plants are located in rural communities. These communities could certainly benefit from a thriving and growing local packing plant or processor who is innovative and aggressive in their product development and marketing efforts.

Unfortunately, the state line is the hurdle that keeps the state inspected plants from becoming more successful.

In closing, we support HCR 5014. Thank you for considering this resolution and for your support on this issue.

House Agriculture Committee
February 28, 2001
Attachment 3



PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

RE: HCR 5014 – Urges the U.S. Congress to allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat.

**February 28, 2001
Topeka, Kansas**

**Prepared by:
Bill R. Fuller, Associate Director
Public Policy Division
Kansas Farm Bureau**

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, we certainly appreciate this opportunity to express Farm Bureau's strong support for HCR 5014 that urges the U.S. Congress to allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat.

My name is Bill Fuller. I serve the farm and ranch members of Kansas Farm Bureau as the Associate Director of the Public Policy Division.

Member adopted policy reaffirmed at the 82nd Annual Meeting of Kansas Farm Bureau in Wichita, November 17-18, 2000 includes the following statements:

- *"We strongly support the state Meat and Poultry Inspection Program administered by the Kansas Department of Agriculture."*
- *"State-inspected meat should be allowed to move in interstate commerce."*

The Federal Wholesale Meat Act of 1967 allows states to have state meat inspection programs that meet or exceed federal inspection standards of the USDA for wholesomeness, cleanliness and food safety. Kansas currently operates a quality state Meat and Poultry Inspection Program that meets or

exceeds all federal requirements. Thus, it makes little sense to exclude state-inspected meat from interstate markets. State-inspected meat should be allowed to move in interstate commerce.

Opening interstate markets will benefit livestock producers, meat processors and rural communities. Developing and marketing value-added products can increase net farm incomes. Expanded meat processing means more economic development by providing additional jobs and increasing tax revenues for the support of local and state governmental entities.

We encourage the committee to act favorably on HCR 5014 that urges the U.S. Congress to enact revisions to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow the interstate shipment and marketing of meat products by state inspected meat processing facilities.

Thank you!

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

House Agriculture Committee

February 28, 2001

Written Testimony Regarding HCR 5014

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Good afternoon Chairman Johnson and members of the committee. Thank you for accepting the Kansas Department of Agriculture's written testimony as you consider House Concurrent Resolution 5014.

State-inspected meat and poultry processing plants in Kansas and across the nation have proven to USDA reviewers that they can meet standards "equal to" those imposed on federally inspected plants. Therefore, it is only fair that our plant owners be permitted to market their products anywhere in the United States.

Last year, KDA encouraged the Kansas congressional delegation and USDA Secretary Glickman to enact legislation permitting interstate shipment of state-inspected meat and poultry products. We will do so again this year. In fact, we will use every opportunity available to us, including working through our national professional organizations, to convey our sentiment on this issue until we reach this goal. Supporting interstate shipment of meat and poultry products from our state-inspected plants is especially important because Kansas plants are producing products that are every bit "equal" to products produced by federally inspected plants. In addition, our state meat inspection program is doing a good job to ensure that only wholesome products are entering commerce.

Thank you for your support of HCR 5014 regarding interstate shipment of state-inspected meat.

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Attachment 5

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Association

**Statement of the
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
regarding
H.C.R. 5017
Presented to the
House Agriculture Committee
Representative Dan Johnson, Chairman**

February 28, 2001

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



House Agriculture Committee
February 28, 2001
Attachment 6

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee, my name is Doug Wareham and I am Vice President, Government Affairs for the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA). The KGFA is a voluntary state association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in the state of Kansas. Our membership includes over 1,100 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state.

KGFA supports House Concurrent Resolution No. 5017, which calls upon the President and 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 continued development of new high-yielding crops, 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 several countries around the globe. Congress should restrict the use of sanctions against agricultural products or for that matter any U.S. product 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 appear in support of H.C.R. 5017. I would be happy to respond to any questions.



PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**RE: HCR 5017 – Urges the President and Congress to
remove all embargoes and trade sanctions involving
agricultural products.**

**February 28, 2001
Topeka, Kansas**

**Prepared by:
Bill R. Fuller, Associate Director
Public Policy Division**

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, farming for the world market is the key to a strong agricultural economy. Farm Bureau strongly supports HCR 5017 that urges the President and Congress to remove all embargoes and trade sanctions involving agricultural products.

My name is Bill Fuller and I serve as the Associate Director of the Public Policy Division for Kansas Farm Bureau.

Farm Bureau support for HCR 5017 is based upon policy adopted by Voting Delegates, including Kansas farmers and ranchers, who were elected to represent the 50 state Farm Bureaus at the 82nd Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Orlando, Florida in January, 2001. Examples of member-adopted policy include these statements:

- *“The threat of unilateral sanctions or other restrictions adversely affects markets and is an inappropriate tool in the implementation of foreign policy.”*
- *“The U.S. government should lift all trade sanctions on all countries that may purchase U.S. farm commodities.”*

- *“We support continuing efforts to achieve normal trading relations with Cuba.”*
- *“An embargo should not be declared without the consent of Congress.”*
- *“Producers should be compensated by direct payments for any losses resulting from unilateral sanctions.”*

Our farmers want to farm for the market. We favor market-oriented agriculture. The 1996 Farm Bill, Freedom to Farm, envisioned a move away from strict government production controls toward a market-driven agriculture industry. Our farmer and rancher members are living up to their end of the bargain and are producing for a domestic and global market place. The federal government, while some progress has been made, has failed to fully live up to their end of the bargain in terms of eliminating trade barriers. The barriers, including sanctions on food and agricultural products, have a stifling effect on the agriculture industry.

We support lifting all embargoes of agricultural products to international countries now on the Unilateral Sanctions List, encourage diplomatic efforts to sell agricultural products and facilitate trade missions to those countries. We respectfully ask the committee to approve and advance HCR 5017 to the House of Representatives.

Thank you!