

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 3:30 p.m. on February 28, 2007, in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Svaty (excused)
Representative Gatewood (excused)
Representative Powell (excused)
Representative Feuerborn (excused)
Representative Flora (excused)

Committee staff present:
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees:
Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President, Kansas Livestock Association
Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending:
See attached list.

SB 191 - Concerning big game and wild turkey violations

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, spoke to the members regarding **SB 191**, a bill to amend **K.S.A. 32-1032** by adding a comma for clarification of the provisions in subsection (a). Mr. Tymeson requested the bill be passed out and placed on the Consent Calendar (**Attachment 1**).

SB 192 - Concerning permits to take big game

Mr. Tymeson commented on the provisions of **SB 192**, limiting the applications for Commission permits to only local chapters of nonprofit groups promoting hunting and fishing within the state (**Attachment 2**). He requested passage of the bill.

SCR 1604 - Urging Congress to allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat.

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department, presented an overview of **SCR 1604**, a resolution urging Congress to allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat. The Federal government requires adherence to specific guidelines under Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), and when those requirements are met, shipping to other states can occur. However, Congress has not acted on this issue. This resolution seeks to eliminate the holding pattern. Answering a question, Mr. Gilliland said that the U. S. Department of Agriculture evaluates the State inspection process, providing one-half of the cost and the Kansas Department of Agriculture pays the remaining half. He further stated that the small processing plants must meet all federal requirements before distribution of meat products can cross state lines.

Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President, Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), spoke as a proponent of **SCR 1604** (**Attachment 3**). He said that KLA is supportive of the resolution, which will benefit producers by providing additional marketing options. Mr. Beam alluded to the high level of safety in the distribution of meat and food both intrastate and that sold outside state boundaries. In answer to a question, Mr. Beam stated the move toward the HACCP program requirements will be imperative for all states.

Written testimony was submitted by Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director, Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB), in support of **SCR 1604** (**Attachment 4**). He spoke briefly on behalf of the members of KFB farmers and ranchers and urged the committee to pass the resolution favorably.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture submitted written testimony in support of **SCR 1604** (**Attachment 5**).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 P.M. on in Room 426-S of the Capitol.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2007.

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 28, 2007

NAME	REPRESENTING
Randy Smith	KBA
BRAD HARRELSON	KFB

KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

**Testimony on SB 191 regarding Big Game and Turkey wildlife violations
To
The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**By Christopher J. Tymeson
Chief Legal Counsel
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

28 February 2007

SB 191 seeks to amend K.S.A. 32-1032 in order to add a comma to the provisions contained in subsection (a). The provisions of the bill would be effective on publication in the Kansas Register. **The Department supports the provisions contained in SB 191 and requested introduction of the bill.**

During the 2005 Legislative Session, a bill that increased penalties for wildlife violators was passed by the Legislature. During the process, several rather lengthy and complex amendments were made to the bill on both sides and during the process, a comma was inadvertently left out. That missing comma has resulted in some cases being dismissed out in the field.

The Department requests that the amendment to the statute be made and appreciates the support of the committee in this endeavor.

KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

**Testimony on SB 192 regarding Commission Permits
To
The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**By Christopher J. Tymeson
Chief Legal Counsel
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

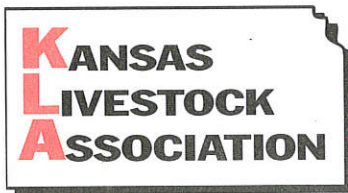
28 February 2007

SB 192 seeks to limit applications for Commission Permits to local chapters of nonprofit organizations based or operating in the state. The provisions of the bill would be effective on publication in the statute book. **The Department supports the provisions contained in SB 192 and requested introduction of the bill.**

SB 192 would amend a statute passed two years ago with regard to Commission permits. Those permits are available to nonprofit organizations that actively promote hunting and fishing. The organization awarded the permit, after paying the highest value for the permit, then markets the permit in a way to raise funds for various cooperative projects between the organization and the department. The organization is allowed to retain fifteen percent of the funds raised and eighty-five percent of the funds raised go to the cooperative project. The first year of operation, 2006, had 59 applicant organizations for the seven permits and the auction of those permits raised \$49,000 for conservation projects. This year, there were 119 applicants for the seven permits.

Some of the applicant organizations for this year's drawing were chapters of nonprofits based outside of the state. None of those organizations were awarded a permit however. In order to clarify this situation, the Department is recommending the statute be changed to limit applicants to local chapters operating or based within the state.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to address the bill and appreciates the support of the Committee in making this modification to the statute.



Since 1894

TESTIMONY

To: House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee
Representative John Faber, Chairperson

From: Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President
Kansas Livestock Association

Date: February 28, 2007

Subject: **SCR 1604** - A concurrent resolution supporting federal legislation authorizing the interstate shipment of state inspected meat.

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,000 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry... including seed stock, cow-calf and stocker cattle production, cattle feeding, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) supports federal legislation to authorize interstate shipment of state-inspected meat that meets federal inspection requirements. It is our view that as long as a state-inspected plant meets the equivalent standards of federal meat inspection it should be allowed to sell the meat in interstate commerce. When it comes to meat/food safety, it makes little difference if the product is sold intrastate or across state lines.

Adoption of federal legislation of this type will give producers another outlet in which they would be able to market their safe and wholesome product to consumers. This resolution is one step to lend support for federal changes that allow producers to utilize more marketing options while not hindering the overall safety of the product they produce.

In conclusion, KLA supports SCR 1604. I would be willing to respond to questions and appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue with you this afternoon.

HS AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2-28-2007



PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE and NATURAL
RESOURCES

RE: SCR 1604 – a resolution urging Congress to allow interstate
marketing of state inspected meat.

**February 28, 2007
Topeka, Kansas**

**Testimony provided by:
Brad Harrelson
State Policy Director
KFB Governmental Relations**

Chairman Faber, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director—Governmental Relations for Kansas Farm Bureau. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 40,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

Farm Bureau strongly supports the state Meat and Poultry Inspection Program administered by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The state inspection program meets a vital need in supporting local meat processing facilities and ensuring the safety of our state's food supply. This program benefits all consumers and should be supported with State General Fund appropriations.

As you know, state inspection programs must meet or exceed federal inspection requirements. Thus, it makes little sense to exclude state-inspected meat from interstate markets. It is extremely important to open interstate markets to producers and processors who prefer the state inspection system. We encourage the committee to act favorably on SCR 1604, and urge Congress to take swift action.

Thank you, once again, for the opportunity to appear before you and share the policy of our members. KFB stands ready to assist you as you consider this important measure. Thank you.

Testimony on SCR 1604: Interstate shipment of state-inspected meat

to

the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Written Testimony

Kansas Department of Agriculture

February 28, 2007

Currently, Kansas and 27 other states have meat and poultry inspection programs that typically cover small establishments that don't have the volume of business to justify the expense of a full-time USDA inspector.

State inspection programs have a strong record for effectiveness and food safety, and they appeal to farmers because they provide more marketing choices. Farmers say they like the marketing flexibility our inspection program offers, and meat processors are attracted to the program because state inspectors can help them update their food handling procedures and technologies.

It's hard to see any sense to blocking a farmer or small business from selling locally processed beef, pork or poultry to eager customers just across the state line when there is no difference in food safety. Even more puzzling is the fact that the ban has remained in place despite three USDA advisory committees finding that its removal would create jobs and stimulate rural economies.

Current law allows products from meat processors in other countries greater access to American markets than is afforded our state-inspected plants, as long as their products come from plants that meet food safety standards equal to USDA's. State meat inspection programs must be equal to federal inspection, but state-inspected products may only be sold in the state where they were produced.

Removing the ban on interstate sales of state-inspected meat products is an economic fairness issue. It will level the economic playing field for small businesses, spur more competition in the marketplace and create a more uniform inspection system.

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and a coalition of 20 farm and agriculture groups, including the Kansas Meat Processors Association, launched a grassroots campaign in 2006 to urge the House and Senate to pass bills to ensure that all meat and poultry products are inspected under a seamless national inspection system and to eliminate the prohibition on interstate sales of state-inspected meat and poultry products.

Although the bills did not pass by the end of the last Congress, we expect substitute bills to be reintroduced soon. We will continue to lend our support to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and their grassroots effort to rectify the disparity caused by outdated federal laws governing interstate sales of state-inspected meat.

Thank you for supporting SCR 1604 regarding interstate sales of state-inspected meat.