

Kansas Meat Processors Association

2104 Fox Meadows, Manhattan, KS 66503

785-539-7842/kmpa@sbcglobal.net

February 15, 2012

Senate Agriculture Cmte,
Senator Taddiken, Chair

Due to time constraints, I am unable to deliver this in person today. Yet, KMPA Board members felt it was important to enter a statement into the public record.

After much discussion and some revisions, KDA and KMPA have reached an agreement to support the revised Senate Bill 302. KMPA must note that our agreement comes with some reservations and remaining concerns.

To have a state program that reaches its fullest potential, to enhance and promote Kansas meat and poultry, our concerns should be given strong consideration. KDA-MPI staff assures us that these concerns can be addressed during a subsequent process to adopt new and review old regulations.

KMPA would like to clearly state our support of a state program, but not just any program. KMPA supports a state meat inspection program that provides oversight of the production of wholesome, unadulterated and properly labeled meat products, keeping special needs of small processors in mind.

Regulation of Kansas very small meat processors should be done in a manner that addresses the special benefits and challenges of very small meat processors. Well administered, the program will benefit Kansas livestock producers, meat consumers and small processors.

Because of small processors' special situations and needs, the design of the state program may well be different than, while remaining "equal to" USDA-FSIS.

Tom Kessinger, President KMPA
2122 Rd 6,
Grenola, KS 67346
620-358-3321
familytreemeats@sktc.net