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Judiciary committee

SB 106; An act concerning consumer protection.

Thank you Chairman Owens, ranking minority member Haley, for allowing me to speak before you today.

Kansas Farmers Union wishes to speak in opposition to SB 106, the proposed amendments to the Kansas Consumer Protection Act.

As KFU president I want to address agriculture being specifically targeted by the amendments for elimination from the act. The blatant intent of these proposed amendments targeting the producers of the largest economic driver in Kansas, agriculture, is disturbing. Especially in today's ag environment of high input costs and devastating mechanical repair costs. When a product is promoted as doing a certain task it had better darn well do what they say it will or that farm may not be there next year.

Why is agriculture excluded? Kansas's farmers will be worse off by being excluded from the Consumer Protection Act.

But I guess that it's really a moot point if the rest of the amendments pass as well which completely neutralize the Kansas Consumer Protection Act anyway. At least that's what smart people tell me it will do.

One thing that I noticed when I looked over the make-up of the Judiciary committee is that there is a whole BUNCH of lawyers in front of me right now. This is the point where I have to hold back my natural desires to include a lawyer joke and focus instead on the issue. The issue is that there are a whole lot of people in front of me who are smarter than I am and know what the written laws actually do. So if you willingly go forward with the proposed amendments you are doing so with a full awareness that you are intentionally doing away with the Kansas Consumer Protection act and declaring "open season" by the vultures out there that feed on the gullible.

Wouldn't it be better social responsibility to just do away with the Kansas Consumer Protection act and tell the public "buyer beware" than to gut it with hidden legalize but with hints of protection?

Thank you for your time.

Senate Judiciary

2-17-11

Attachment 1