



TESTIMONY

To: House Judiciary Committee
Representative Lance Kinzer, Chairman

From: Tim Stroda, President-CEO, Kansas Pork Association

Date: February 19, 2013

Re: HB 2292 – protection of agricultural activities from certain nuisance actions;

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Tim Stroda, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide support for HB 2292 on behalf of the Kansas Pork Association. The Kansas Pork Association represents pork producers and allied industry members from across the state of Kansas.

HB 2292 is very straight forward in what it is attempting to accomplish. The bill would allow owners of farmland who are conducting agricultural activities on their land to remain protected from nuisance complaints even when they expand the scope of their agricultural activities. The expansion, which may include an increase in acreage, an increase in capacity, or a change in the type of agricultural activity, must be in compliance with all applicable county, state and federal rules and regulations. Furthermore, the bill allows such protection to transfer to any successor. Additionally, the protection is not waived if agricultural activities are temporarily ceased or the scope of the activity is decreased. Finally, the bill also states that agricultural activity includes activities related to the “handling, storage, and transportation of agricultural commodities.”

While Kansas has a strong statutory framework allowing agricultural producers to produce the food to feed the world without fear of litigation, this bill will help strengthen the protections for agricultural producers. This bill does not alter any of the regulatory requirements for livestock operations, but it does help protect a producer from the potential of costly damages relating to potential nuisance actions.

I encourage you to vote favorably for passage of HB 2292.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Kansas Pork Industry Facts



Pork farmers make Kansas better

1. There are about 1,500 hog farms in Kansas. Of these operations, 300 produce over 95% of the state's pork.
2. Kansas is the number 10 state in hog and pig inventory producing about 3.0 percent of the nation's total.
3. In 2012, Kansas producers sold 3,220,637 market hogs, feeder pigs and seedstock with a gross market value of \$560,499,256. These hogs produced over 500,000,000 pounds of pork which helps feed millions of people in the U.S. and abroad through exports.

Pork industry important to Kansas economy

Kansas pork farms consume over 30 million bushels of grain. Primarily, these operations utilize Kansas-grown grain sorghum and corn. At January 2013 prices, the pork industry will spend over \$210,000,000 on grain sorghum and corn this year.

Kansas pork farms also consume the equivalent of over eight million bushels of soybeans through soybean products. At January 2013 prices, the pork industry will spend over \$112,000,000 on soybean meal this year.

Kansas pork farmers support suppliers of goods and services to their businesses. A short list of vendors includes:

- **Feed suppliers** - grain and nutritional supplements.
- **Construction** - includes new building and maintenance.
- **Labor** - as with any business, growth means increased labor needs.
- **Supplies** - pork producers utilize Main Street businesses for a vast array of items ranging from veterinary supplies to office supplies.
- **Equipment** - pork producers utilize specialty equipment for many tasks including nutrient management.
- **Utilities** - gas, propane and electric.
- **Trucking** - producers utilize trucking to bring grain to the farm as well as hauling hogs to market.
- **Services** - pork producers utilize many services along Main Street including financial, medical, accounting, legal, engineering, and veterinary.

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