



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address HB 2224, HB 2225, and HB 2275. KCA opposes each of these bills and would encourage you to maintain support for the current Kansas Restraint of Trade Act.

This law was put in place over 100 years ago to encourage competition and to allow consumers to receive quality products at reasonable prices without price fixing from large companies.

Some have made the argument, especially in agriculture, that without amending or repealing this law, producers will not be able to market their livestock or grains. That is simply not true. Livestock producers and farmers will still be able to market their products. Instead, HB 2224, HB 2225, and HB 2275 will shield illegal price depressing contracts from anti-trust laws and give producers no opportunity to protect themselves against illegal monopsonies. Enforcing the current law is important to maintaining competitive trade and pricing in agriculture.

By amending or repealing this law, you will allow companies to commit an injustice without any consequences. If someone commits a crime against one person in a church, that person should be found guilty. He shouldn't be punished only if he commits a crime against everyone in the church. That is an example of what you are allowing to happen if you pass HB 2224, HB 2225, or HB 2275.

If a large retailer price fixes and coerces with competitors to depress a market it should be held accountable for its actions as well. Again, HB 2224, HB 2225, and HB 2275 allow companies to manipulate consumers and hinder smaller companies. Rural, independent, and small businesses deserve every tool to compete with multi-national, billion dollar companies. For that reason, we ask that you oppose HB 2224, HB 2225, and HB 2275.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Best Regards,

Brandy Carter  
CEO/Executive Director  
Kansas Cattlemen's Association