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Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 1711
to
The Senate Natural Resources Committee
By Greg Foley
Kansas Department of Agriculture
February 14, 2013

Good morning, Chairman Powell and members of the committee. I am Greg Foley, executive director for the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation. I am here to express KDA's support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1711.

Kansas farmers and ranchers are conservationists in all senses of natural resource management through protection efforts on soil, water, air, plants and animals. This resolution does not discount Kansas or natural resource protection. It simply is addressing a reintroduction effort that does not appear to be working as promised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

KDA has received comments from many affected farmers and ranchers and have reviewed many documents from the Logan County Commissioners expressing significant opposition and economic hardship resulting from the inability to keep the prairie dog colonies within the confines of the safe harbor complexes.

KDA would like to state five additional recommendations for the record and for the committee's consideration:

1. USFWS should deny the extension of the existing permit and provide transparency of all actions and documents relating to the reintroduction effort.
2. If the permit is reissued, request USFWS to issue a moratorium on the permit and any subsequent action until the multiple issues raised by adjacent landowners and local government are remedied.
3. USFWS should perform a comprehensive Economic Impact Statement to evaluate actual impacts, not only to the affected areas, but to include adjacent landowners and surrounding community.
4. KDA respectfully requests that the USFWS not take further actions, or impede in any way, the ability of any landowner to utilize Rozol as a management strategy for prairie dog control.
5. In the event that USFWS reissues the permit, the agency utilize a third party for the management and desired control, to include turn-key implementation as well as all costs

associated to treatment to be paid by the USFWS, for all adjacent landowners who desire to control the prairie dog immigration.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 1711 and to provide support for the Senates leadership on this issue. I will answer questions at the appropriate time.