

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
785-564-6700



900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-296-3556

Secretary Jackie McClaskey

Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D.

**Testimony in Support of HB 2729 to
The House Agriculture Committee
By Chad Bontrager
Kansas Department of Agriculture
February 13, 2018**

Chairman Hoffman and members of the committee, I am Chad Bontrager, director of the Division of Agribusiness Services for the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2729.

HB 2729 makes changes to the repackaging portion of the Kansas Egg Law. We have heard from egg retailers that the repackaging requirements are burdensome and could be dramatically improved with a few small changes. The primary concern is that, under current law, retailers can't repack eggs without having to downgrade them to Grade B automatically. We do not see a food safety concern with maintaining the Grade A rating for eggs even though they have been repackaged, but we do believe there are some specific requirements that should be added in regulation if HB 2729 were to pass.

Members of the committee will notice that HB 2729 removes language in K.S.A. 2-2510 and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations. Our intent would be to keep the provisions of 2-2510 in regulation minus the downgrading to Grade B outlined in section 1(4). We would then add into regulation the following items:

- Undamaged eggs from damaged containers are only placed into containers with the same distributor/packer information, specifically including name, address, USDA plant number and packaging code.
- On the repackaged eggs there are no declarations of enhanced quality or claims that did not appear on the original container.
- The eggs in the undamaged shells are handled and repackaged employing good manufacturing practices under refrigerated conditions in accordance with FDA regulations.
- All damaged packaging material identified with the USDA grade shield is to be destroyed.
- All segregated inedible eggs are properly destroyed to prohibit human consumption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2729 with the proposed amendments. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.