



Kansas Agricultural Alliance

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To: House Committee on Agriculture, Rep. Kyle Hoffman, Chair
From: Kansas Agricultural Alliance, Daniel Heady, President; Tucker Stewart, Vice President
Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2018
RE: SB 405 – AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMAL CONVERSION UNITS; POULTRY FACILITIES

The Kansas Agricultural Alliance (KAA) is composed of farm, livestock, commodity, cooperative, agri-business and agri-service organizations. KAA's mission is to promote the general welfare of agriculture and rural communities within Kansas and the U.S., with special emphasis upon legislative activities affecting agriculture, rural areas and cooperative services.

KAA supports SB 405 and ask that you pass the bill without amendment.

Private investment is critical to improving the Kansas agricultural economy, which is going through some of its toughest times since the 1980s. Agriculture is the largest economic driver in Kansas, valued at nearly \$67.5 billion and accounting for 44.5% of the state's total economy. Investment in animal agriculture, regardless of species, adds value to local economies. It is crucial for the agricultural producers in the state of Kansas to have many different options when it comes to selling and marketing their grain or diversifying their livestock operations. The construction of a new agricultural processing facility and the accompanying investment in animal agriculture infrastructure in Kansas is a great way to encourage growth and provide job security for both rural and urban Kansans.

SB 405 is a necessary first step to allowing farmers the opportunity to add value to their operation and grow the state's economy. K.S.A. 65-171d contains animal unit standards for various types of confined feeding facilities, but does not contain a standard for dry litter poultry barns that are the industry standard for modern poultry production. Therefore, if poultry production is in Kansas' future, a standard must be added to the statute. Research from Kansas State University demonstrates that 0.003 animal unit per broiler is appropriate because the average daily weight over the broiler's lifecycle is less than 3 pounds. We support this science based approach to clarifying animal units for dry litter poultry systems.

In addition, we would note that K.S.A. 65-171d controls permitting standards and setback distances for all species of livestock in Kansas. Therefore, we oppose any amendment to the bill that would change the current setback distances in statute or subject environmental or operational standards for confined feeding facilities to political, non-science based restrictions.

Thank you for considering the views of Kansas agriculture and we urge you to pass SB 405 without amendment.