

March 2, 2018

Members of the House Agricultural Committee,

My name is Kirk Sours. I am a cattle rancher in southern Leavenworth County.

I would like to address the impact of the two most detrimental issues involved in SB 405, which are inter-related so actually it is the combination of the two which will create problems.

I have read the bill and have grave concerns about the minimal setback distances and the new Animal Unit formula being used.

Again, I am a cattle rancher, so I am pro agriculture. I manage the ranch property which surrounds on 3 sides) the formerly proposed Tyson chicken processing plant south of Tonganoxie. There are 7 residences very close to the site which would have been affected, 3 immediately across the road and 4 within a few hundred feet of the property. This does not account for the scores of homes in the immediate one mile radius of the property, and the hundreds of homes, and thousands of folks who live directly downwind of the proposed plant site who live in Tonganoxie and the surrounding area, which serves as a bedroom community for Kansas City, Lawrence, Topeka, and Leavenworth/Lansing.

I would like to give the scope of a complex like this for your consideration.

1.25 Million chickens would have been processed in this plant every week. That's over 178,000 birds every day, 24/7/365 days per year, making somewhere north of 65 Million birds per year flowing through the production pipeline with a one-time capacity of more than 7 million birds, allowing for death loss. (What happens to the dead carcasses?) Those 7 million birds must be grown/housed within a 30-50 mile radius of the processing plant because they won't survive being transported a greater distance.

Those birds eat a lot of feed, which will be processed by the company's own feed mill. No local mills will be making feed for these birds, because the poultry companies have very strict and exacting specifications for the feed that goes through these birds.

Heavy truck traffic to service this type of complex will be of a very large magnitude, scores of trips per day moving fertilized eggs from breeder houses to the hatchery, baby chicks to grower houses, feed, finished birds to processing, manure, finished product out, service vehicles of all types, all bring another element of environmental consideration beside noise and added safety concerns, particularly to these "bedroom" type communities: Dust from gravel roads, and the added expense to county road maintenance. In our area, the gravel is really soft and pulverizes fairly quickly, and in dry conditions becomes airborne with simply a car, or pickup truck, or even cattle walking on it.

I have not addressed the handling of the manure, which is multiple times higher in nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus) than other species. I understand there are digesters and things that can help with preparation of this waste, but it must be housed and processed on site, otherwise you have thousands of tons of chicken feces being transported over the roadways. Each bird housing site will need these treatment centers for dry (or even wet) treatment.

I realize that few of the things I've stated thus far are addressed in SB 405, and it deals with other subjects – namely Animal Unit conversion rates, and setback distances. But these things have a direct correlation to the matters that *are* discussed; and these other matters I have mentioned need to be considered when setting distances and bird population rates, especially when considering the potential future sites of proposals.

Tonganoxie was not a good location for this proposal because of the things I just enumerated. There are other areas in Kansas where a similar complex, including the grower houses, would not be a suitable location. There are probably some locations that could work

But this is where the setback distances are vital, especially in consideration of the population density of the birds and number of grower houses per site. My understanding is the current setback is 4000 feet. The new setback according to SB 405 will allow placement of hundreds of thousands of chickens within 1320 feet of a habitable structure (home, school, medical, business, etc.). 1320 feet is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. I have shot coyotes at that distance. For perspective, that is about the same distance from 8th Street, north of the Capital building, south to the Fountain of Justice in front of the Supreme Court Building south of the Capital. Imagine 333,000 chickens (or more) housed in that proximity to your home or business. Now imagine our Kansas south wind breezing that through the Capital Building.

1320 feet is not far enough. Either the population of birds needs to be less, or the setback distance needs to be further, or both. The current figures in SB 405 are unacceptable.

Please consider amending this bill to reduce bird population and/or increase the setback distances.

Thank you.