

Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I am writing to ask that this bill to allow the "relaxation" of chicken CAFO regulations be defeated. My experience with this kind of corporate model is this:

(1) Relatives who live in central Missouri in a "Tyson" community have seen the streams so polluted in their county that fishing, canoeing or coming in contact with the water at all is discouraged. This includes the frequent appearance of dead chicken carcasses floating in those water ways. The primary population center of that county has shrunk significantly in the 20 years since Tyson arrived into a shadow of its former self. Tyson operations have not brought prosperity to the community. Property values plummeted.

(2) Air pollution and unbelievable odor pollution. And it isn't just the manure, but the odor of rotting carcasses. The death loss on the "industrial" chickens (Cornish Cross) is very high. I have raised these birds in small groups on pasture. They are genetically defective, unable to support their body weight. Nor are their internal organs equipped to handle their body mass. They cannot really even walk during the last couple of weeks of life. So they basically lay around in their own manure. They are unable to even completely feather out, so often have open sores on their underside by the time of slaughter.

(3) The massive exhaust fans blow feces infected particles out into the air mass and air currents. . The proposed Kansas law drastically reduces the distance from adjacent property that these facilities may locate - down to 100 feet. Further, under the new regs, the chicken CAFO's can also put far more chicken houses in a location than was previously indicated.

(3) Before you approve the "chickenization" of Kansas. Please consider how short a distance 100 feet. That is exactly how close these chickens have to stay away from schools, other residences, ordinary businesses if under 100,000 chickens. With SB 405, a third of a million chickens only requires 1320 ft.

For these reasons and many more, please consider tabling this bill.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Mettenburg  
Princeton, KS