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TESTIMONY

ROCK GAGNEBIN

SB263

Good afternoon House Ag committee, my Name is Rock Gagnebin. I farm in western Reno County, I am a fifth generation farmer and have two sons that would like to be the sixth generation farmers on our 1870's Homesteaded land. At present, the farm economy is in a very volatile state with the present prices for farm commodities expected to remain the same for the next 10 years, the outlook looks bleak at best and since the Kansas economy is nearly 50% agricultural based the future of the Kansas economy could be jeopardized!

Kansas farmers did not really put themselves into this position, advancements in technology and the natural evolution of farming methods has farmers producing maximum yields. For example when I was a kid farmers would produce 30-40 bushels of wheat per acre, now it is not unheard of to be producing 100 bushels per acre. Most of the products produced by the Kansas farmer goes into feeding livestock, however the agriculture technology revolution has modified the livestock with genetics and hormones to maximize animal gains per day which in turn reduces the animals overall product consumption creating a bottle neck and large surpluses of grains and no market. These same technologies have propagated to foreign countries and their farmers, reducing the need for US exporting.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT I AM ALL ABOUT PUSHING SB263 FORWARD!

However SB263 in its present form does not do enough for the future of the Kansas farmer and the Kansas economy. Kansas should be the leader in the Industrial Hemp industry and it is not, we are falling behind as 31 other states have already moved forward. The present bill only allows for research and is limited to Russell County. It would be unrealistic if one expects that venture capital would come to this state and invest in processing facilities when they could easily go to one of the other 31 approved states.

Please view the present and the future of this state, very seldom do you get the opportunity to be involved in a program that is in its infancy across the nation, without making large strides towards Industrial Hemp Kansas and its farmers are doomed.

Movement towards a more aggressive Industrial Hemp program will greatly affect the farmers profit by 10-20 fold per acre and ignite manufacturing of Industrial Hemp products in Kansas while revitalizing our states agricultural manufacturing facilities.

PLEASE DO NOT RESEARCH THE KANSAS FARMER OUT OF BUSINESS!!