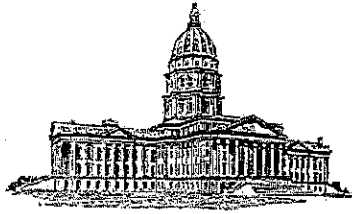


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Ken Rahjes
Representative, 110th District

March 13, 2017

Dear Chairman Johnson and Committee,

Over the last week, the state of Kansas has experienced the largest wildfires in our recorded history. Recovery efforts continue today and it is too soon to know yet how many animals perished. In Clark County ranchers so far have lost about 2,500 adult cattle and at least 1,000 calves, according to Randall Spare, co-owner of Ashland Veterinary Center.

In many of these instances, the federal government takes the lead in working with state officials to reimburse funding for firefighting, and other indemnities, but like the Anderson Creek Wildfires of last year, there are some things we can do as a state legislature to help our fellow Kansans.

I encourage you to support, H.B. 2387, this bill is similar to a bill last year which the legislature passed and the Governor signed for an exemption of sales taxes for fencing materials and supplies.

We are still learning of the possible long term effects of this season's wildfires and if the need arises companion legislation may be offered at a later time.

Thank you for your consideration. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Regards,

Ken Rahjes
110th State Representative
352-S