



Since 1894

To: Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Sen. Javob LaTurner, Chairman

From: Tucker A. Stewart, Associate Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **SB 157 Kansas highway patrol; immigration agreement;**

Date: February 15, 2017

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing nearly 5,200 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock; cow-calf and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) opposes SB 157 which would compel the superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security to enforce federal immigration law. KLA policy indicates that “the duty to regulate immigration policy is the constitutional responsibility of the federal government . . .” Additionally, this bill is unnecessary and will likely cost Kansas taxpayers money to enforce federal law.

KLA is aware of an Executive Order issued by President Trump that directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to engage state Governors to enter into agreements to authorize State and local law enforcement offices to perform the function of immigration officers. It is important to note that the order directs Homeland Security to work with the Governor rather than the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) which this legislation requires.

Directly contracting with the KHP would essentially make a body of law enforcement officers whose role has historically been the enforcement of criminal law now responsible for civil immigration issues. This could create conflicts within the mission of the KHP while also adding an additional task to an already burdened state agency. This could adversely impact Kansas businesses if the KHP does not have adequate funding and training to carry out its new mission, civil immigration enforcement. Simply, KLA believes immigration policy is an inherently federal area of the law and enforcement of federal law should be done by federal agents rather than local law enforcement. It is not the role of Kansans to pay for immigration enforcement at the state level when Kansans are already paying for it at the federal level.

KLA respectfully requests that the committee oppose SB 157.