

To: House Agriculture Committee, Representative Ron Highland, Chairperson

From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: March 16, 2020

Re: SB 308- Testimony Supporting SB 308

Good morning Chairman Highland and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) in support of SB 308. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

KFB policy supports “consumer friendly, science-based labeling of agricultural products that provide consumers with useful information concerning the ingredients and nutritional value.” SB 308 is an attempt to provide the consumers with science-based information for them to make an informed decision.

While we recognize the consumers' right to purchase food products, we also would like to ensure that the best scientific information is available to those consumers when they make those decisions. Therefore, we would also be supportive of including language on the label that would explicitly express that the raw, unpasteurized milk “may contain organisms that cause foodborne illness” or language of a similar effect. KFB feels that language would provide consumers choosing to buy that product adequate notice of some of the risks involved in consuming the product.

Finally, KFB is attempting to ensure that the language is drafted in such a manner to avoid the likelihood of future litigation; therefore, at this time, the bill should simply focus on the labeling of this product.

In conclusion, KFB is supportive of SB 308 and encourages this committee to support SB 308.