



TO: House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Tim Stroda, President-CEO, Kansas Pork Association

DATE: February 9, 2022

Written testimony in support of House Bill 2531

Chairman Rahjes and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tim Stroda. I am the President-CEO of the Kansas Pork Association. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2531.

In 2008, our farmers adopted the six ethical principles outlined on the second page of this testimony. These principles are utilized to help pork producers recognize our obligation to build and maintain the trust of customers and the public in our products and our practices.

HB 2531 speaks to two of these principles – Environment and Communities.

The animals on our farms produce nutrients that can be utilized to replace much of the commercial fertilizer needed for crop production on land surrounding the farm. Pipelines allow farmers to move nutrients in a safe and efficient manner. They provide a constant flow of material which allows increased flexibility in the types of application methods. Technology and the current economics of commercial fertilizer are encouraging farmers to spread our nutrients over more acres. Pipelines allow this to happen.

Pork producers understand that even small pipelines that convey our nutrients are long-term investments. This necessitates long-term commitments for all the parties involved. HB 2531 provides a framework for projects to move ahead with proper approvals. It also provides recourse to the local governments if an unforeseen situation occurs.

The members of the Kansas Pork Association support HB 2531. Thank you for allowing me to provide this written testimony.

We Care[®] Ethical Principles

We Care[®] is an overarching philosophy and commitment grounded in the six Ethical Principles that guide America's pig farmers in all that they do.

Food Safety: We affirm our obligation to produce safe food.

- Use management practices consistent with producing safe food.
- Manage the health of the herd to produce safe food.
- Manage technology to produce safe food.

Animal Wellbeing: We affirm our obligation to protect and promote animal wellbeing.

- Provide feed, water and an environment that promotes the wellbeing of our animals.
- Provide proper care, handling and transportation for pigs at each stage of life.
- Protect pig health and provide appropriate treatment, including veterinary care, when needed.
- Use approved practices to euthanize, in a timely manner, those sick or injured pigs that fail to respond to care and treatment.

Environment: We affirm our obligation to safeguard natural resources in all of our practices.

- Manage manure as a valuable resource and use in a manner that safeguards air and water quality.
- Manage air quality from production facilities to minimize the impact on neighbors and the community.
- Manage our operations to protect the quality of natural resources.

Public Health: We affirm our obligation to ensure our practices protect public health.

- Use management practices consistent with producing safe food.
- Manage the use of animal health products to protect public health.
- Manage manure and air quality to protect public health.

Our People: We affirm our obligation to provide an environment that is safe and consistent with our other ethical principles.

- Provide an environment that promotes the health and safety of our people.
- Educate our people on the Ethical Principles for U.S. Pork Producers and prepare them to meet their obligations consistent with these principles.
- Provide an environment where employees are treated fairly and with respect.

The Communities in which we operate: We affirm our obligation to contribute to a better quality of life in our communities.

- Recognize that being welcomed and appreciated by the community is a privilege that must be earned and maintained.
- Acknowledge that our practices can affect the trust a community has in pork production and our operations.
- Operate in a manner that protects the environment and public health.
- Play an active role in helping to build a strong community.
- Acknowledge community concerns and address them in an honest and sincere manner.

Kansas Pork Industry Facts



Pork farmers make Kansas better

1. There are about 1,000 hog farms in Kansas. Of these operations, 150 produce over 99% of the state's pigs.
2. Kansas is the number 11 state in hog and pig inventory producing about three percent of the nation's total.
3. In 2021, Kansas producers sold 3,885,669 market hogs, feeder pigs and seedstock with a gross market value of \$729,496,865. These hogs produced over 700,000,000 pounds of pork which helps feed millions of people in the U.S. and abroad through exports.

Pork industry important to Kansas economy

Kansas pork farms consume over 41 million bushels of grain. Primarily, these operations utilize Kansas-grown grain sorghum and corn. At January 2022 prices, the pork industry will spend over \$256,000,000 on grain sorghum and corn this year.

Kansas pork farms also consume the equivalent of over nine million bushels of soybeans through soybean products. At January 2022 prices, the pork industry will spend over \$135,000,000 on soybean products this year.

Kansas pork farmers support suppliers of goods and services to their businesses. A short list of vendors includes:

- **Feed suppliers** - grain and nutritional supplements.
- **Construction** - includes new building and maintenance.
- **Labor** - as with any business, growth means increased labor needs.
- **Supplies** - pork producers utilize Main Street businesses for a vast array of items ranging from veterinary supplies to office supplies.
- **Equipment** - pork producers utilize specialty equipment for many tasks including nutrient management.
- **Utilities** - gas, propane and electric.
- **Trucking** - producers utilize trucking to bring grain to the farm as well as hauling hogs to market.
- **Services** - pork producers utilize many services along Main Street including financial, medical, accounting, legal, engineering, and veterinary.