

Honorable Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I am writing concerning house bill 2099,

First I am sorry I am unable to be there today but we are lambing and kidding and it is virtually impossible with the inclement weather to be away from this and have viable births.

I belonged to KMGGA but will not join again because of the mismanagement of the organization. Half the board of directors resigned because of problems with managing the funds for the youth and other issues. I seriously think the organization will not be functioning much longer because of lack of membership.

The check off was brought up at a members meeting in April in Hutchinson. The Members voted to have a group look into it and bring it back to the membership to see if this was something that they wanted to do. I have attended every meeting to this time and it was only mentioned at a meeting in June in Abilene NOT voted on. At no time has the membership voted on this bill to see if it is the consensus of the membership. Dairy breeders were never contacted at all to my knowledge. I know they are not in favor of it.

We do not need a Goat Council sponsored by the KMGGA

On a recent KMGGA call there were threats about an auction to take place along with the banquet for the youth. The parties that had donated items for the youth took them back because the KMGGA organization would NOT satisfy their questions on the "youth" getting the money Not the parent organization.(KMGGA) This has made this organization a very unstable organization that appears to not be viable at this present time.

The Youth felt it best since they were having problems getting the money **they raised** from the KMGGA that they form a new organization which they have done.

I have been the person to sit in a booth and answer questions and listen to concerns across the state about the "Goat Industry" it has been my consensus that there is not a need for the Goat council in the form that it is presented at this time. Do we need a check off that remains to be seen, but .50 is extremely high for those who only make 1.00 per head such as the dairy which should have not even have been included in this. Not once did I have someone say we need a council or a check off in the hundreds of people I have visited with over the past two years at different jackpot shows, County Fairs, State Fair or the Kansas Junior Livestock show.

I contacted several of the livestock auctions that handle sheep and goats because if they handle one they generally handle the other they knew **NOTHING** about this checkoff and had not been contacted to see how it would affect them and their workload. They too should have a vested interest in it.

"e) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$500, or to imprisonment for not less than 30 nor more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. "

This is copied directly from the bill as it stands. Many of the goats sold are sold by Children for their 4-H or FFA projects. I think this is a travesty to tax children as young as 7 when they sell their goats. What do you think?

Thank you for your time and effort on stopping this bill.

Sharon Kent

Wakefield