



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address HB 2404.

My name is Brandy Carter, and I am the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association. KCA opposes HB 2404.

It is extremely important to maintain our corporate farming laws. Small businesses, which consist of independent operations, are the backbone of the Kansas economy. Independent producers, often living on the land, and family corporations are not just a business though, it's a way of life. They have a vested interest in environmental stewardship because the land may remain in the family for generations.

HB 2404 is a detriment to Kansas and its people.

HB 2404 would allow multi-national corporations to come into Kansas and directly compete with family businesses for land and in the marketplace where their size will provide them with leverage to push independent producers right out of business. Family corporations do exist and operate in Kansas, as they should under our current laws.

Large corporations have a responsibility to their stockholders. Although, there are environmental laws in place, actions by multi-national corporations will result in an increase of regulations and would result in strengthening environmental laws. While it is important that we ensure our environment is adequately protected, aggressive agendas by government agencies have proven to be excessive. The EPA, for example, proposed roughly \$172 billion in compliance costs for new regulations last year alone. Passing SB 191 will provide even more incentive for regulating current Kansas corporations and family farmers out of business.

HB 2404 isn't just a detriment to independent producers; consumers will be affected as well. Food confidence and food safety are critical to our nation's health. Sourcing food from a larger number of smaller producers helps prevent mass contamination and protects the food system, providing safe food for consumers. Passing HB2404 will put food production in the hands of a few. It doesn't create efficiency; it creates a food safety issue. This is reflective in the egg recall just three years ago, where the majority of tainted eggs produced in the U.S were produced from one egg company, and a recall affected millions of Americans. As well, leverage in production agriculture also creates leverage in food prices which will directly affect the family budget. In these difficult economic times, increasing the percentage in which a family must use their budget for food will only hinder our economy.

KCA asks that you oppose HB 2404, and instead we ask that you support your neighbors, your communities, and people of Kansas.

Brandy Carter
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director
Kansas Cattlemen's Association