

## **What will you be doing on June 4, 2018?**

Most Americans will probably wake up, take a shower, brush their teeth, maybe make some oatmeal and coffee. They may even throw a load of laundry in the washing machine before filling a refillable bottle with water or grabbing a to-go bottle of water.

That is not what will be happening for the 4 million people living in of Cape Town, South Africa. The New Yorker reported on March 1 that June 4, 2018, has been labeled Day Zero. Just one week previous, the projection was April 16, 2018. It is the day that the government will turn off the water to the general public. The population will not be taking a shower, brushing their teeth, boiling water for oatmeal or coffee, washing clothes or grabbing a bottle of water for the day.

The aquifer beneath the edge of Tonganoxie typically contains a limited amount of water. We have just been through 3 “dry winters” and can expect that what is in the aquifer is less than in the past.

The chicken industry wants to come to northeast Kansas because of the water. Processing 1,250,000 chickens per week will use 2 million gallons of water each day.

When will Day Zero be for Kansas?

## **Is there a chicken shortage in Kansas?**

I've googled to see if there is a chicken shortage in Kansas. I find no evidence of one. Is there a chicken shortage in the United States? I can find no evidence of a chicken shortage in the United States. I can find no evidence of a future with a chicken shortage. Chicken prices in the Price Chopper ad are \$1.49 per pound for boneless, skinless breasts?. So why do we need to kill 65,000,000 chickens a year? Possibly these chickens are not for the United States. It is quite possible that the chickens (and these are chickens, not broilers as the chicken industry would like to call them) will be going overseas. Why produce chickens for overseas that will ruin our environment in Kansas.

## **Are all jobs created equal?**

No. Dr. Don Stull on October 3, 2017, at the Douglas County Fair Grounds told us that according to his research in the chicken industry that no one will retire from a job at a chicken processing plant. A person's body will wear out before reaching a retirement age. Employees will also be injured on the job. Dr .Stull also shared with us that the chicken industry has a history of doing anything necessary to deny workman's compensation claims. Of course, we need to recognize that someone earning \$15 an hour will not be able to save any money for retirement.

The poultry industry, in states outside of Kansas, have set the stage for using Prison Work Release programs to supply workers in the processing plants. According to Prison Policy Initiative, <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2017/04/10/wages/>, on April 10, 2017, prisoners on work release in the state of Kansas earn between 9 and 16 cents per hour. This hourly rate is disgraceful and inappropriate pay for anyone.

Bringing jobs to Kansas would be amazing. The jobs must have salaries that people can live on, raise families, buy houses, save and retire. The chicken industry does not provide these jobs.

### **What will the chicken industry offer us?**

We will eventually lose our water supply. As we ruin our environment (Tyson just got a \$2 million fine for causing a fish kill in Missouri (Associated Press, February 28, 2018)), we will provide dead chickens to Asia – at least until our water is gone. The employees will not be able to provide financially for themselves or any family.

The chicken industry is industry. This is not agriculture or farming.

When the community of Tonganoxie rallied together and spoke out against Tyson, their voice was unified around the concern that the plant would ruin our quality of life. Without that quality of life, what do we have? Quality companies should be lining up to be good community members. The chicken industry has proven itself to not be good community members.

Promises have been made to farmers in western Kansas who think they will be able to raise the corn for the chickens. They will; until cheaper corn is sourced in Nebraska or Iowa.

Providing limited farming for the West of Kansas does not justify ruining the environment in Eastern Kansas.

What will you do? What will be your legacy?

Vote against SB405. Support legislation that allows community members to decide for themselves if they want 33,000 chickens within 1,500 feet of their homes.

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