

Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I lived in the Garden City, KS area from 1997 to 2009. During my time there, my job was reading rural electric meters all around Finney, Kearney and Scott Counties. As you know, that area is full of feed lots, hog barns and slaughterhouses. There may have been chicken CAFOs that I wasn't aware of, but my meter routes didn't include any of those. During my time there, I developed respiratory and other illnesses. The air smelled awful and the water was nasty. After I moved to the Clearwater, KS area, my health issues cleared up. I no longer have to take inhaled asthma meds or headache pills. I am terrified that CAFOs will invade Sedgwick County. I am 62 years old, too old to move and start over again.

Not only do these methods use up precious water resources, and pollute the air and ground where they are, they also produce meat that isn't healthy for us to eat. The cruelty to the animals and the unsafe, low wage jobs that come with them are other reasons to keep them from establishing any more locations in our state. We do not need to produce toxic, cheap meat at the expense of our precious water resources and our clean air. We can't let Kansas go the way of Iowa with all their CAFOs.

Since SB 405 passed the KS Senate, I've learned that the plan is to relax regulations while we are being told that new technology makes these huge chicken barns safe for my family and I to live near. They must slow down long enough to prove it! I don't want these things near my home, for reasons of my health, my quality of life (the awful stench and the increase in flies!) and how it always causes nearby property values to plummet. I believe that as a taxpaying property owner, I should have a vote as to whether Tyson, Perdue, Sanderson Farms, or any other corporate chicken "farming" company moves into my neighborhood. Local farmers who are good stewards of the land don't want this, either. It should be a ballot issue, not something hurried past voters by lawmakers. Please share my horror at what they are doing. I will remember their positions at election time.

Thanks,

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