



Since 1894

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Sen. Dan Kerschen, Chair

From: Aaron M. Popelka, V.P. of Legal and Governmental Affairs, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **SB 405 AN ACT concerning the department of health and environment; relating to animal conversion units; poultry facilities.**

Date: February 12, 2018

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing nearly 5,200 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Thank you, Chairman Kerschen and members of the Committee, my name is Aaron Popelka and I am with the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA). KLA supports SB 405.

KLA policy states that its members' believe, "livestock operations require consistent, science-based, uniform environmental laws and regulations to maintain a favorable business environment." It further states that KLA, "supports legislative . . . actions that allow maximum flexibility for agricultural and livestock operations to meet regulatory obligations."

SB 405 falls squarely within the context of science-based, uniform environmental laws. K.S.A. 65-171d contains an animal unit standard for continuous overflow watering and liquid manure system poultry barns. This statute, however, does not contain a standard for dry litter poultry barns that are the industry standard for modern poultry production. Therefore, if poultry production is in Kansas' future, a standard must be added to the statute.

KLA believes that any addition or change to the animal unit standards, whether for poultry, cattle, sheep or swine, should be based on the best available science and technology. Research from Kansas State University demonstrates that 0.003 animal unit per broiler is appropriate because the average daily weight over the broiler's lifecycle is less than 3 pounds. In addition, it is our understanding that research demonstrates odors from a dry litter poultry barn dissipate within 350 feet and a minimum setback of 1,320 feet is sufficient for sites over 300 animal units.

Finally, KLA would oppose any amendment that subjects environmental or operational standards for animal feeding operations to political, non-science based restrictions.

KLA supports SB 405 and asks the Committee to approve it favorable for passage without amendment when it considers the bill.