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February 8, 2018

To: Chair Dan Kerschen and the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:
From: Kendal Francis, City Manager, Coffeyville, KS
Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 405

Dear Chairman Kerschen:


On February 12, 2018, you will have hearings regarding SB 405. This legislation seeks to amend state law in regards to animal conversion units by the inclusion of poultry facilities. For the following reasons, I wholeheartedly support this legislation.

First, the City of Coffeyville supports the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's ability to prevent surface and subsurface soil and water pollution. To assist in the department's efforts, Kansas has successfully used long-established conversion rates based on scientific data for controlling potential pollution resulting from animal production facilities. This practice is time-tested and should prove effective for poultry facilities as well.

Second, the proposed modifications opens Kansas to substantial economic development benefits, resulting from future poultry production, by establishing setbacks for production facilities that are comparable to surrounding states. Kansas is an untapped market ripe for poultry production. However, as Kansas has historically been a beef cattle state, the statutes were not written with poultry in mind. The current statutes place Kansas at a severe disadvantage when competing against neighboring states. These amendments will "level the playing field".

Therefore, I ask for you to support SB 405 and its inclusion of animal conversion units for poultry facilities.

Sincerely,



Kendal Francis
City Manager