



**Senate Committee on Ag and Natural Resources
Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 300
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 300, which proposes to ban the sale of raw milk in the state. Our interest in this issue is not due to technical problems with the bill, but rather a general opposition to the government dictating what perfectly legal products can and cannot be sold.

We suspect this bill was brought forward as a result of litigation last year challenging a Kansas law that banned the advertisement of raw milk. The Attorney General stated “While we typically provide a rigorous defense for every statute enacted by the Legislature, in this care where there exists no plausible legal defense the better and less-costly course of action is for the Department of Agriculture to work with the Legislature to modify the statute so it complies with the U.S. Constitution.”

Proponents of this bill cite public safety concerns over the sale of raw milk as the main reason why this bill is needed. We would advocate to focus on addressing health concerns, if any, over an outright ban on the sale of raw milk. A quick Google search shows a recall on milk just last month in Canada and a recall of milk produced in Phoenix. I don’t see the Legislature running to ban milk due to safety risks.

In closing, we would strongly encourage this committee to think through the ramifications of completely banning the sale of a product and ask whether there are alternative options to address concerns over public safety. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 300, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.