



Since 1894

To: House Committee on Agriculture
Representative Ken Rahjes, Chair

From: Dean Klahr, Director of Stockgrowers Division, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **HB 2723, AN ACT concerning animals; relating to transporting animals into the state; authorizing the animal health commissioner to assess a civil penalty for violations relating thereto; amending K.S.A. 47-607c and repealing the existing section.**

Date: March 8, 2022

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,700 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, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to appear as a proponent of HB 2723. The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) strongly supports the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Division of Animal Health in its efforts to protect the domestic livestock population of Kansas from infectious and contagious diseases.

Currently, all animals entering Kansas shall be accompanied by an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within 30 days prior to movement into Kansas unless moving to a slaughter facility or livestock market. For example, specific diseases of concern to Kansas cattle producers are Trichomonas, Brucellosis, and Bovine Tuberculosis. CVI's serve as documentation to prove that animal owners have followed the proper animal health protocols, based off the animal's intended use, prior to entering the state. This process is key in safeguarding our domestic livestock herds and mitigating the risk of a diseases outbreak occurring in this state. HB 2723 would assist the Animal Health Commissioner in enforcing these protections on those who are intentionally disregarding current law, while safeguarding those producers who unknowingly do so.

Thank you for allowing KLA to address the committee on this issue that is important to the livestock industry. KLA stands ready to work with the legislature and KDA to ensure our state remains protected from infectious and contagious diseases.