

## **Re: House Bill No. 2547**

**Distinguished Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resource Budget Committee :**

**I am Virginia Crossland-Macha, President of the Kansas State Fair Board. As I represent the Board today I come in support of the appointment date change to October 15<sup>th</sup> from March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Kansas State Fair generally holds its first meeting of the year in January taking place usually in Topeka. This meeting not only reviews the financial figures from the previous years State Fair, but covers a vast amount of information for changes requested by staff or changes occurring in the industry, progress of building projects for the coming year, and events that the State Fair will accommodate during that year. We, as a Board, consider this one of the most important meetings of the year for Board Members, Newly Appointed and Seasoned Appointees.**

**Typically, the March 15<sup>th</sup> appointment date placed a newly appointed member to the State Fair Board after the March Meeting, but more often it was not until May or July until the appointee attended their first meeting. This took time away from staff to bring them up to speed as well as meeting delays to review information from the January meeting. Not only did this put a new member at a disadvantage, but placed them at a critical time before the State Fair where the pace is brisk and somewhat confusing for those that are not familiar with the Fair activities.**

**The Kansas State Fair feels like the October 15<sup>th</sup> Appointment date would allow ample time for a new appointee to become familiar with what will be required of them during their service and make the time spent in the January Board meeting more productive.**

**We thank this Committee for taking this issue up and look forward to answering any questions.**

