

**Testimony in Support of SB 405 to
The House Agriculture Committee
By Jackie McClaskey
Kansas Department of Agriculture
March 6, 2018**

Good afternoon Chairman Hoffman and members of the committee, my name is Jackie McClaskey and I serve as the Secretary for the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 405.

In 2015 KDA was tasked with developing a strategy to grow the agricultural industry in Kansas. As part of our Agricultural Growth Strategy project, KDA staff have had the opportunity to participate in hundreds of meetings with nearly 1,000 stakeholders across the agricultural industry: from traditional crop and livestock farmers, to companies producing cutting-edge remote sensing technology. During these meetings, industry leaders have identified desired growth outcomes within the state's 19 agricultural sectors, and have outlined specific action items to achieve each one.

A common theme we heard in these meetings is the need to add value to our agricultural commodities before they leave the state. Livestock processing facilities add value and benefit the state by creating jobs and directly supporting the livestock industry, which in turn supports the crop industries, as well as other ancillary businesses along the value chain. Growth in the poultry industry has been identified as one of the desired outcomes of the Kansas Agricultural Growth Strategy project. As a result, KDA has had the opportunity to interact with leaders in the poultry industry both within and outside of the state's borders.

Leaders in the poultry industry have informed us that the Kansas statutes and regulations that apply to the modern poultry industry are either non-existent or unclear. Specifically, animal unit conversion factors exist for many other livestock species, but the Kansas Department of Health and Environment statute does not include a factor for broilers or laying hens raised in a facility with a dry manure system. As you will hear from scientists at Kansas State University, the proposed conversion factor of 0.003 is based upon sound science employing the latest data on poultry production.

Other states in our region have established reputations as strongholds for growth in the poultry industry. For Kansas to be competitive, we need statutes that apply to modern poultry production while ensuring we have the proper authority to protect our natural resources. KDA remains committed to growing the agricultural industry while protecting our natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.