

Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I am opposed to the Kansas Senate Bill 405 that would allow 333,333 chickens in massive 20,000 sq. ft. barns only 1320 ft. from a residence, community building, church, school, or medical facility within an industrialized slaughterhouse & as many as 99,000 chickens that could be placed just 100 ft. from a neighbor's property line. I have lived in Tonganoxie for over 30 years. My wife died in my arms of cancer, which these chicken plants will bring to our children & grandchildren. Large amounts of dust by powerful fans from the end of barns that will be 500 to 600 ft. long would release manure particles & bacteria known to pose a risk to humans downwind.

Let's not be fooled by a multi-billion dollar corporation who doesn't care about our quality of life. What about the odor & the waste that will eventually overflow into our ground, creeks, & rivers? Tyson is only concerned about big \$\$\$ which each of their top executives gets millions of dollars annually. The poor will get poorer & the rich will get richer! Tyson is the 2nd worst water polluters in the US & will discharge millions of gallons of toxic waste (nitrogen & phosphorus) daily into creeks & rivers Tyson doesn't care about air & water pollution as well as agriculture and cattle industry which is what helped build Kansas. Tyson has already been fined by the EPA & OSHA over \$4 million.

Tyson processing plants will pay minimum wage 12 hours a day & 7 days a week to pick up dead chickens at their plants. 90% of Tyson employees gross before taxes will earn \$520 @ week which is below the federal poverty line. How does Tyson have the millions of recruited farmer's (15 year contract that requires farmers to waive their right to a jury in any disputes with the company) broiler farms they own environmentally dispose of millions of tons of daily manure & dead chickens? Two chicken houses in western Kentucky emitted over 10 tons of ammonia in one year. One chicken farmer made \$36,000 on his first flock in the summer of 1998, more than most chicken farmers in the US. Energy prices went up in 2001. He spent \$2,800 on electricity for each of his 6 chicken houses & \$25,000 to heat the flock for the winter & more money to cool them in the summer. Many of the chicks he received the next year were blind. Tyson extended the time between flocks to 20 days, the maximum their contract allowed before the farmers had to pay Tyson a penalty. A flock takes about 7 weeks to mature & several such delays could cost the farmer a whole flock per year (the difference between profit & loss). In 2002, Tyson terminated this farmer's contract or pay \$10,000 in improvements to each of the chicken house. Tyson paid the farmer \$33.22 in payment of loses. The chicken houses have been empty since 2005 & the life of this farmer & family is unknown. By working for Tyson, you're imprisoned for life. This is only one of most tragic stories to the chicken farmer contracted by Tyson. It's sad to think that so many are afraid to speak up for the fear of losing their low paying & unsafe jobs at Tyson. If people would just speak up, improvements will be made to have a better quality of life for themselves & others.

Our Future is in your hands!

John Palmer

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