

Dear Representative,

I am writing today to encourage you to vote **against SB 405**. Since September I have learned more about the poultry industry than I ever wanted to know when Tyson tried to sneak into my Tonganoxie community. My first gut reaction to the proposal was continually reinforced as I learned more about the **negative environmental impact of the chicken industry** on the water and air, the related health impact on the populations surrounding the facilities, **the mistreatment of the contract farmers**, decreased property values of property adjacent to the facilities and the negative impact on communities that are forced to pay for the infrastructure required for the truck traffic, schools, and public safety.

I am **appalled that this bill was introduced by the KDHE**. The very governmental agency charged with protecting the health of Kansans is backing a change in policy that would put the health of our citizens at risk.

It seems that our department of Ag is **blinded by the false promise of new jobs and increased markets for the Kansas grain**. I would ask you to investigate what has happened to other states where poultry facilities have introduced. The long-term effects of these poultry operations have proven to be a net loss in other states.

The testimony at the Senate Ag committee hearings stressed the “state of the art” poultry facilities that are being proposed would be “safe”. I suspect that the facilities in Oklahoma, Missouri, Maryland, North Carolina, Minnesota and Iowa were presented as “state of the art” at the time they were proposed in those states. The **“litter” described by the testimony in the Ag committee hearings is high potency chicken manure**. The “best practices” that were described in the Senate committee testimony are not required and thus there are no penalties for not using these “best practices”. That is what has gotten **other states into environmental trouble**.

I would encourage you to do your own research as to what the poultry industry has done to the environment of those states. The Tulsa drinking water is at risk, the lakes in Minnesota are unsafe for swimming, the pollution in Iowa are just some of the problems that exist due to the **negative environmental impact caused by the poultry industry**. Only last week Tyson was fined \$2 Million for causing a Missouri fish kill.

Why would Kansas want to encourage companies with that kind of record of disregard for clean air and water? How can the KDHE ignore their track record of health indifference? **How can Kansas legislators who represent the people of the state let this happen?**

**If the industry were as safe as presented it would not need the changes proposed in SB 405**. Kansans are being sold a bill of goods that would have a negative impact on the state and the only winners would be “Big Ag” not the Kansas farmers that are your constituents.

I grew up on a farm, live on a farm and am in no way anti-agriculture nor a tree hugging environmentalist, but the Big Ag Poultry industry is not agriculture and **polluting Kansas air and water is wrong**.

Please vote **against SB 405!!**

Sincerely,

Linda Sturgeon, Tonganoxie KS

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