

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Senator Dan Kerschen, Chairman

From: Rich Felts, President, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: February 12, 2018

Re: Testimony in support of SB 405- relating to animal conversion units; poultry facilities

Chairman Kerschen and members of the Committee, on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments today in support of SB 405. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau associations.

Kansas Farm Bureau is always looking for opportunities for growth in the agricultural sector in Kansas. Our policy is supportive of having a regulatory system that is clear and not overly burdensome while protecting the interests that the statutes and regulations are designed to protect.

As Dr. Beyer pointed out to this committee, there is a great opportunity to grow the poultry industry in Kansas. However, while analyzing the current regulatory framework, an issue arose regarding the animal unit conversion of poultry facilities in the current statute. The modern poultry facilities being discussed to come to Kansas do not fit the conversions in K.S.A. 65-171d. The statute has animal unit conversions for poultry facilities that have continuous overflow watering and liquid manure systems. The modern facilities have dry manure systems and do not use continuous overflow watering systems. Therefore, it quickly became obvious that a modern, science based animal unit conversion factor for dry manure systems needed to be added to Kansas law.

The agriculture community and the regulatory community began discussions to ensure that the animal unit conversion factor was accurate for these types of facilities. Kansas State University conducted an analysis of what the proper conversion factor would be. KSU determined that factor should be set at 0.003 for a poultry facility with a dry manure system. Kansas Farm Bureau supports the 0.003 conversion factor for these facilities.

Once again, it is important for Kansas to ensure that the business climate is good and inviting for new opportunities within the agricultural industry. Kansas Farm Bureau believes that the provisions in SB 405 will help to attract new agricultural business in Kansas by helping to clarify where these facilities fit in the current regulatory environment.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and we reiterate our support of SB 405.