



Since 1894

To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
Representative Mark Hutton, Chair

From: Tucker Stewart, Associate Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **HB 2595 Reserving regulation of consumer incentive items and nutrition labeling for food menu items in restaurants and vending machines to the legislature. (Written only)**

Date: February 15, 2016

*The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing nearly 5,200 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf and stocker production, cattle feeding, dairy production, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.*

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) supports HB 2595, as this bill will prevent the local units of government from restricting the growing or raising of livestock, grain, and other crops more stringently than the state or federal government. KLA believes the bill would prevent a patchwork of rules and regulations that would adversely interfere with production agriculture.

KLA policy indicates that KLA is "opposed to attempts to narrow the business options or limit the individual freedom of livestock producers to innovate in the management and marketing of their production unfettered by additional government regulations." In line with the spirit of this policy, HB 2595 would prevent the state and local government from passing more burdensome regulation than the federal government. Predictability is key when making business decisions, and this would help stabilize the regulatory climate for Kansas agriculture.

Passing this bill will have a positive impact on agriculture by allowing producers to invest in making their product better, rather than using assets to comply with a patchwork of burdensome regulations. Finally, this bill does not restrict the Kansas Department of Agriculture's ability to ensure food safety.

For the above reasons KLA supports and asks for your support of HB 2595.