

STATEMENT OF THE KANSAS DAIRY ASSOCIATION
TO THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE JIM MORRISON, CHAIR

REGARDING H.B. 2137

FEBRUARY 2, 2005

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am Chris Wilson, Executive Director of the Kansas Dairy Association (KDA). KDA members include 99.9% of all Kansas dairies. We commend the Committee for considering H.B. 2137, to provide nutritious choices in vending machines in Kansas schools.

Research has shown how important making healthy choices is for our youth and that the habits formed at an early age will affect their lives and health throughout their lives. Kansas Dairy Association and Kansas Dairy Commission conducted a pilot test study in Kansas schools during the 2003-2004 school year, in conjunction with Midwest Dairy Association. This was the first study nationwide looking at how dairy vending machines can be successful in schools with smaller student populations (under 400). We would be happy to provide the Committee with the results of that study. The study included 9 machines in a variety of student situations. All but one school opted to retain their machines for this school year, and that remaining machine is the one we placed in the Capitol. The machines we used will vend a variety of products, including snacks, water and juices as well as a variety of dairy products.

Through the study, we have developed a fair amount of expertise in working with dairy vending machines, and we are currently working with several additional schools which are wanting to acquire machines. Additionally, there are several other schools which have already purchased dairy vending machines on their own initiative.

We would be happy to work with the Committee and all those concerned to develop the most workable options to achieve the goal of providing health food choices, including dairy, in vending machines for Kansas school children.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I would be glad to respond to questions at the appropriate time.