

Approved: 03/06/12  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on February 1, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Steve Morris- excused  
Senator Ralph Ostmeier - excused

Committee staff present:

David Wiese, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Abigail Boudewyns, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Erik Wisner, Regulatory and Policy Special Assistant, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)  
Tom Kessinger, President, Kansas Meat Processors Association (KMPA)  
Martin Luther, Luther's Smokehouse, Inc.

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken noted that the Committee had received written reports from the Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Council ([Attachment 1](#)) and the Kansas Dairy Marketing Advisory Board ([Attachment 2](#)).

### **Introduction of bills**

Woody Moses, Kansas Aggregate Producers' Association, Kansas Cement Council and Kansas Ready Mix Concrete Association, requested the introduction of a bill concerning water and appropriations of water for sand and gravel projects. Senator Teichman made a motion to introduce the requested bill; seconded by Senator Abrams. Motion carried.

Senator Schmidt made a motion to introduce a bill regarding the farm winery licenses and delete the requirement that products be grown in Kansas. Motion was seconded by Senator Abrams. Motion carried.

Chairman Taddiken opened the hearing on **SB 302 – Amendments to the Kansas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act.**

David Wiese, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, reviewed the bill.

## CONTINUATION PAGE

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 a.m. on February 1, 2012 in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Erik Wisner, Regulatory and Policy Special Assistant, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), spoke in favor of **SB 302**. (Attachment 3) This bill authorizes the secretary to ensure animals are handled and slaughtered humanely at plants registered under the Meat and Poultry Inspection Act. He said temporary suspension authority is added that is consistent with the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act and other food laws. Mr. Wisner also said that this bill would establish a \$25 registration fee for all registrations which would allow the program to cover the costs of issuing the registrations. He also said that **SB 302** makes technical changes to definitions to ensure clarity and consistency throughout the act. Mr. Wisner stood for questions.

Julie Ehler, Program Manager, Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, KDA, also answered questions from the Committee.

Tom Kessinger, President, Kansas Meat Processors Association (KMPA), spoke in opposition to **SB 302** (Attachment 4). He said the bill places too much power in one place because there is no third party watching over meat and poultry inspection. Mr. Kessinger noted that this bill increases legal control over businesses with no increase in food safety. He said the KMPA proposes that this bill be rejected in its entirety and the Committee instructs the KDA – Meat and Poultry Inspection, to adopt a new paradigm of operation which is a food safety agency that promotes and protects the safe production of meat through research, education and cooperation with enforcement as the last resort. Mr. Kessinger took questions.

Martin Luther, Luther's Smokehouse, spoke in opposition to **SB 302**. (Attachment 5) He said that this bill systematically eliminates **SB 557** which was passed in 2008. He said that the state should stop funding the Kansas meat inspection program and save what meat plants are left. Mr. Luther said he believes the state department of agriculture meat inspection division is out of control.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2012. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.