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I reside on the Reno Co. farm on which my father was born in 1915. And, I believe I've learned some surprising things about the impact of an officeholder's address on their potential value to family farms. Two experiences contributing to that actually happened decades apart.

The first was at the beginning of the very first round of the Conservation Reserve Program. One of the impacts was that the price of approved grass seed was rapidly increasing. In 1964, my father had taken part in a predecessor to the CRP called the Soil Bank. As he compared the two programs, he noticed a major difference. In 1964, the government would pay half the price of the seed – with a set top amount. Such a top was missing from the CRP.

There was a FOURTH DISTRICT congressional office in Hutchinson then. It was the office a Democrat from (the largest CITY in the state) Wichita named Dan Glickman. His family's background was in the metal business. His step to Congress was from the Wichita School Board. In sum, he'd felt no need to portray himself as having a farm background. (Let alone attempt to woo an endorsement from any self-described farm organization.) But, my father and I explained the grass seed matter to his staffer and things got changed. Oh, and Dan Glickman went on to be the Secretary of Agriculture.

Fast forward to late 2018, with both parents having passed away, and I get a letter from a Hutchinson attorney containing fraudulent appraisals of the inherited farm property, followed a couple of weeks later by the threat of a forced sheriff's sale if I didn't make acceptable offers to the other heir. Hence, my introduction to Kansas partition law. And, further research revealed that, in 2019, Iowa had been the 11<sup>th</sup> state to do away with such law and virtually make extortion of heirs with an attachment to multi-generational farms a thing of the past.

So, even though I knew obtaining such a change in Kansas would happen too late to do me any good, I adopted following Iowa's lead as a cause that could help others in the future. But, here were my surprises. First, the quickest and most detailed response was a letter from a Wichita member of the Kansas legislature who said he'd use his power as a ranking committee member to obtain consideration if I could get someone to advance such legislation. However, it's been 2 ½ years since I sent a Reno County legislator acquaintance a detailed explanation of dueling partition laws and I've never even gotten an acknowledgement of that letter. Why? Might it be because his district is virtually all urban?

The Iowa bill that became law was actually called The Save the Family Farm Act and was just one legislator short of a unanimous legislative vote. Maybe Iowa legislators are just better at pondering other peoples' situations. Maybe Kansas needs districts that always have rural areas in addition to urban or an urban area in addition to rural areas.