

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Erica Holmes and I'm a daughter of Representative Mitch Holmes. I am eighteen years old and I have been involved with goats since I was seven. My parents bought our first goat in September of 1999, and my older sister and I have been practically in charge of managing our goats since a few years after that as their numbers grew. Ten years ago in 2001 I became the owner of the very first goat of my own, and in 2007, at fourteen years, I began my own goat business. As I designed and maintained a website to advertise my stock, my parents also put me in charge of marketing their goats, and I've been market manager ever since.

As a goat breeder, I am against House Bill 2099 which establishes a fee funded goat council in the state of Kansas for the purpose of goat marketing development.

Quote by founding father John Adams: "Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men;"

It is not the government's job to involve itself in private business because the government is not a business entity.

Quote by founding father James Wilson: "Government ... should be formed to secure and enlarge the exercise of the natural rights of its members; and every government which has not this in view as its principal object is not a government of the legitimate kind."

Private business is to be left to the citizens. The goat council would have seven, tax funded members, and the inventiveness of seven private goat breeders or producers is at least equal to theirs. Instead of there being seven private goat breeders, however, there are hundreds of people raising and marketing their own animals. With hundreds of minds to come up with answers, we have an advantage, and are linked nationally rather than confining ourselves to the state. We use websites, forums, magazines, and forwards lists to share these ideas, and it doesn't cost us one cent above that which we choose to pay. One of the last things we need is another tax for more government. All we want the government to do is "provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity".

Quote by economist Bob McEwan: "The greater the government, the greater the poverty. The greater the freedom, the greater the wealth."

I would encourage you to oppose this bill for bigger, more expensive government.