

To House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Members:

First I want to Thank You for letting me have written testimony concerning House Bill 2099.

I wanted to let you know that I am very concerned about House Bill 2099. The bill is right now is at the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. I am a father of a child goat producer and did not find out about this bill until it was already at this committee. My daughter raises registered goats, show goats, commercial goats and registered Dairy goats. I strongly urge you to do something to stop this bill.

This past summer a fellow house representative, Vern Swanson, watched my daughter show her goats at the Clay Center Fair. Not to brag, but the past few years my daughter has done very well showing and raising her goats.

The proposed bill will greatly hurt my daughter's profits when she shows her goats. She purchases her goats for around \$100 for a sale barn goat and then up to \$5,000 for a middle of the line registered breeding goat. My daughter has even bought semen to better her Boer and Dairy goat herds.

For show goats my daughter spends on average one bag of feed costs \$13.00, if she puts additives in the feed for a better show quality Boer meat goat she pays on average \$85.00 for a twenty five pound bucket of additive; that will feed two goats for two weeks. This bill is proposing to cut into her very narrow profit, if any, on her show goats; by fifty cents a head. On average my daughter spends \$400.00 for one wether goat. Yes, my daughter makes money on her commercial herd, but it helps offset the total show bill.

Dairy goats require a higher ration of feed to produce quality milk that can be drank by consumers. For the most part unfortunately, dairy goats do not have as high of profit at sale barns. The proposed \$.50 a head on goats would cut into her profit margin even more. In 2009 my daughter sold three registered dairy animals that were weaned and on full feed for a total of \$100.00 at a local sale barn. There was a feed bill, a sale barn fee on top of this, and then with this bill it would add a goat check off bill on top. My daughter did not break even on them as it was.

The purposed bill is not a volunteer bill and states: that if a goat seller does not pay the money owed within a few days they can be fined or go to jail. How do I explain to a child that she has to pay this money or get fined and or go to jail? My daughter gets loans from us to help pay her expenses and then pays her bills at the end of the year when she is finished showing her goats.

Furthermore; I have talked to numerous goat producers and some that are even members of the Kansas Meat Goat Association, also known as KMGGA, who knew nothing of this bill until it was at the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Looking over KMGGA's minutes I have read that there is much tension and distress amongst the members. After speaking with past and current members I have learned that this organization has been in turmoil since 2000. A current member of KMGGA also stated that at least four board members are not going to continue on with their positions and noted some did not finish until the end of their term. This member also stated that membership has been down and it looks like it is down considerable this coming year.

It states on the KMGGA website that their annual sale had to be canceled due to the low number of consignments and as an effort to ensure a quality sale for not only the consignors, but those interested buyers as well as the association, the sale has been postponed. With the meat market booming in record prices and the shortage of goats why would you cancel a sale? Why are their low consignments when most of the members own websites state they have goats for sale year round? When asking around it was stated that the KMGGA consignment fee is too high, sick goats have been sold, the sale is not publicized enough, and numerous other complaints. This makes me question some of the decision making aspects that KMGGA has and is doing.

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According to the youth portion of their website it appears as if donates were pulled from KMGGA. After asking a few KMGGA members about this it was stated that money was not being used the way sponsors intended for it to be used. The members further stated that all youth money must go into the KMGGA bank account and be approved by KMGGA, on how it was used. Asking even further questions to KMGGA members it was stated for these reasons sponsors were not happy and pulled their sponsorship and even membership. If sponsors are not supporting the youth due to mismanagement of funding how will KMGGA handle money from other goat producers?

It is noted in minutes that not even enough members are attending meetings to meet a quorum to conduct business. If there is not enough members present it means only a select few will be making major decisions. This could lead into even more shaky grounds. I do not want my daughter's nor my hard earned money to be given to a very unreliable looking association.

These are just a few of the concerns that I have about this bill. I am asking you to please vote house bill 2099 down.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Father of a Child Goat Producer

Mike Hoover