



Since 1894

To: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Representative Sharon Schwartz, Chair

From: Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President

Re: **Support for House Bill No. 2030 (Section 15)**

Date: January 26, 2014

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,000 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf and stocker production, cattle feeding, dairy production, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) is submitting this statement in support of HB 2030. KLA's position is limited to Section 15. This section increases the fees for the animal facility inspection program, which governs the Kansas Department of Agriculture/Animal Health Divisions (KDA) regulation of dog and cat breeders, rescue networks, foster homes, pounds/shelters, boarding or training premises, pet shops, and animal distributors.

It's important for this committee to know KLA supported legislation in 2010 that made a significant increase in animal disease control fees. The 2010 legislation increased the statutory limit on fees for the livestock sector by 66% to 250%, which resulted in a higher percentage of fee revenue support for the animal disease program. An increase in the animal facility inspection program fees should result in a more equitable distribution of limited general funds among these two programs.

While we believe a case may be made for an increase in general fund expenditures for the pet animal act, as well as the livestock disease control functions, we also understand the restraints of the general fund expenditures. It's our understanding the new fee structure proposed by HB 2030 is supported by the pet animal advisory committee, represented by licensees who will pay this increase in fees to the agency.

At this time KLA does not have policy addressing the other provisions of HB 2030. We do note, however, that this bill is a product of considerable vetting by the industry and agency staff for the last several years. We urge you to favorably consider the provisions of HB 2030 and resist amendments that would unravel industry and agency support for the bill.