



Since 1894

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

From: Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President

Re: **Support for House Bill No. 2554 (Section 13)**

Date: February 3, 2016

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,200 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seedstock, 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 2554. KLA's position is limited to Section 13 (pages 12&13). 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, pounds/shelters, boarding or training premises, pet shops, animal distributors and other facilities.

It's important for this committee to know KLA supported legislation in 2010 that made a significant increase in animal disease control fees, assessed to the livestock industry. The 2010 legislation, which became law that year, increased the statutory limit on fees for the livestock sector by 66% to 250%. The result of this legislation and subsequent fee increases 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 are fully aware, however, of the current restraints for increased general fund support for any state agency. It's our understanding the new fee structure proposed by HB 2554 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 2554. We urge you to favorably consider the provisions of HB 2554 and resist amendments that would unravel industry and agency support for the bill.