



February 12th, 2018

To: Chairman Dan Kerschen and the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

From: Heather Morgan, Executive Director, Project 17

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 405

Dear Chairman Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 405. Project 17 is a 17 county regional economic development organization in Southeast Kansas. We work with communities, businesses, and citizens throughout our region to improve the economic vitality of Southeast Kansas. While this bill is dealing with technical agricultural regulations, we believe that the bill also works to balance the needs of the agricultural producer with the needs of the community. In researching the densities needed to make different types of agricultural production profitable the changes in SB 405 are critical to future agricultural economic development opportunities throughout Kansas.

Southeast Kansas is supportive of the agricultural economy and understands the need to continue to provide opportunities for agricultural production of all scales in the region. Agricultural production naturally leads to agricultural processing, feed supply chain, and other ancillary industries which would also support the Southeast Kansas economy. Without the changes proposed in SB 405 it would be difficult for producers to operate profitable poultry growth operations. Also without SB 405 agricultural producers would likely face the inability to raise the capital necessary to finance new investment in agricultural economic development opportunities. With low agricultural commodity prices, the downturn in the oil and gas economy, and the historical manufacturing changes that have occurred in the Southeast Kansas economy the opportunity to build on a strength and diversify the agricultural economy in the region would be incredibly beneficial. Please support the changes suggested in SB 405 to allow agricultural production to grow and continue to spur investment in the Kansas economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H Morgan", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Heather Morgan, Executive Director

Project 17

Heather Morgan: Project 17 Executive Director Phone: 785-323-7001 Email: hmorgan@twoproject17.org

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