



Since 1894

Date: March 20, 2024

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Sen. Virgil Peck, Chair

From: Taylor Nikkel, Director of the Stockgrowers Division, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **HB 2608 AN ACT concerning agriculture; relating to animal health; poultry disease control; authorizing the animal health commissioner to adopt rules and regulations to administer the poultry disease control act.**

Position: Proponent, Oral In-Person

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing more than 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Thank you, Chairman Peck, and members of the Committee, for allowing the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) the opportunity to share our views on HB 2608. KLA stands in support of HB 2608.

KLA policy states, "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Kansas Livestock Association supports funding the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health through the state general fund or from a broad-based fee collection system funded proportionately from all species based on their demands on Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health Resources." HB 2608 would help to cover agency costs relating to poultry programs within the state that are currently being funded through the animal disease control fund.

A significant number of services are being provided to the poultry industry through poultry programs, such as poultry disease prevention plans and diagnostic testing. The poultry industry does not have to pay fees into the animal disease control fund and fees collected from cattle and swine operations are being utilized to help provide them with these services. Currently, livestock producers are helping to support the animal disease control fund through fees collected by the agency at livestock auction markets, feedlot operator's licenses, livestock dealer's licenses, certificates of veterinary inspection, and calfhood vaccination tags. HB 2608 would ensure all species are remitting fees to support the animal disease control fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit KLA's views to the Committee. KLA asks the Committee to approve HB 2608 favorably for passage.