

To: Senate Assessment and Taxation, Senator Caryn Tyson, Chair

From: Glenn Brunkow, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: February 2, 2023

Re: SB60 - Providing a sales tax exemption for custom meat processing services

Chair Tyson and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB60. My name is Glenn Brunkow, and I am speaking today on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) where I serve the northeast part of the state as the District 1 Board Member. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

My family and I are the fifth and sixth generation on my family's farm in Pottawatomie County. We raise corn, soybeans, wheat and hay and run a cow herd and sheep flock. In 2010, as a result of my children's 4-H projects my family and I started Brunkow Family Lamb. Brunkow Family Lamb raises lambs and then markets the meat to families across Kansas. An integral part of our operation is our local, custom meat processing facility. We partner with Yoder Meats to do our processing and view them as a trusted partner in our business. They have always been willing to work with us, we schedule our harvest dates a year in advance and they go the extra mile to ensure that our lamb is a premium product. The key to our successful partnership is the personal attention we receive from them.

The importance of custom processing facilities was highlighted during COVID-19 when larger processing plants were facing labor constraints and reduced capacity. My family and I were able to work with our custom processor to continue to market fresh lamb products to our customers who were not always able to find meat at the grocery store. Kansas farmers and ranchers raise some of the highest quality meat in the county and as more and more people look to purchase their food products locally, custom processors are a necessity. This exemption assists them in continuing to serve the people of Kansas.

Senator Tyson and committee, again, thank you for the opportunity to express our support for SB60. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.