

Members of the House Committee:

We live in Franklin County, five miles southwest of Ottawa, and we love our farm and the area. We moved here 30 years ago from Leawood and never regretted it. Well, once for a bit because when we bought our farm it was March and the winds were out of the north primarily. We moved in in May and discovered that when the wind was from the southwest we were awarded with a foul smell from a very small hog farm that was about a half mile away. It was so bad that we couldn't enjoy our patio and frequently closed windows even though we had no air conditioning - in the summer! Our dream of living in the country turned into a nightmare quickly!

Luckily the farm failed and the odor slowly disappeared restoring our outdoor life by the next summer. Had this not happened we definitely would have had to sell the farm and probably at a loss!

I know what kind of devastation a chicken farm with hundreds of thousands (or even merely thousands of chickens) could cause on surrounding properties. A chicken farm and a hog farm are not that different.

I was involved with a neighbor who lives about a mile and a half from us who lost both of his ponds when overflow from a holding pond at another small hog farm uphill from him filled his ponds from which his cattle drank. A farmer without ponds is the worst kind of nightmare. I guarantee you that they cannot afford to water cattle with rural water!

This is wrong in so many different ways! And, we know that Tyson wants to make money and environmental regulations can be easily overlooked with the correct amount of money!

Thank you,

Joan Vibert
Windwalker Farm
Ottawa, Kansas