

Opponent to SB 405: Joy Thomas

Dear Representatives,

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> I am concerned about upcoming legislation SB 405 and its potential impact upon the drinking water of Shawnee which is drawn from the Kaw River. I am concerned that my families drinking water could be severely impacted as a result of proposed changes to current agricultural restrictions pertaining to chicken production.

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> It is my understanding that current Kansas law requires a 4000-foot setback from habitable structures for broiler chicken production operations that confine 100,000 or more birds. Habitable structures include a dwelling, church, school, medical care facility, adult & child care facilities, community & office buildings, or food and

> lodging establishments.

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> My issues and questions about SB 405 are listed as follows:

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> Water Pollution

> 1. The proposed animal unit conversion factor of 0.003 for broiler chickens is based on a comparison of the body weight of a broiler chicken and a beef cow which is set at 1.00 animal

> units. But chickens produce twice as much manure that contains twice as much nitrogen and six times as much phosphorus as cow manure. Nitrogen and phosphorus are the greatest threat to streams from waste application runoff.

> 2. The claim by the KDA Secretary that the low 0.003 conversion factor just brings us in line with Wisconsin and Minnesota is incorrect. Wisconsin is 0.008 and Minnesota is 0.005 for chickens more than 5 lbs.

> 3. With SB 405's greatly reduced animal unit conversion factor, most production barn sites will not be required to prepare a nutrient management plan (NMP) set to federal requirements. KDHE's waste management plan for the others does not require reporting of soil tests to prevent waste overload.

> 4. Even if a NMP is required, experience in other states with massive poultry networks indicates that most of the manure will be shipped off site. KDHE has no system to track the ultimate disposal of this manure.

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> SB 405 is of deep concern to me as there have been recent attempts by large agricultural companies (i.e. Tyson Foods) looking to move into the Tonganoxie area. This move would bring more chicken houses and this bill severely lightens restrictions. I personally have reservations against this move because the drinking water of Shawnee comes from the Kaw River which is downstream of the earlier proposed area of development. There have been many surface water impact studies performed on the effects of runoff from these types of operations on rivers and streams. The drinking water my family consumes could be severely impacted and compromised. Loosening restrictions already in place in order to protect our health is deeply troubling.

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> Please consider tabling SB 405 until a study is commissioned to determine the effects of manure runoff on the downstream drinking water of Shawnee and to estimate the health impacts to neighbors living only 1320 feet downwind of 333,333 chickens. KDHE should also study how it will keep track of all the manure that will be shipped around the state.

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> Thank you for your consideration.

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> Joy Thomas

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