

Approved: March 27, 2008

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 3:30 P.M. on March 12, 2008, in Room 783 of the DSOB.

All members were present except:

Representative Carl Holmes - excused
Representative Vaughn Flora - excused
Representative Josh Svaty - excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Kristen Kellems, Revisor of Statutes
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Tony DeRossett, Hunters Feeding the Hungry, Inc.
Brandy Carter, Executive Director, Kansas Cattlemen's Association
Wanda Kinney, Kansas Cattlemen's Association
Dorothy Goodman, Member, U.S. Cattlemen's Association and Kansas Cattlemen's Association
Lee Robbins, Yates Center, Kansas
Daryl Larson, Vice-President, Kansas Farmers Union, McPherson, Kansas
David Pfrang, Goff, Kansas
Mike Callicrate, Ranch Foods Direct, LLC, Colorado Springs, Colorado {Written Only}
Jim Dobbins, Beef Producer, Goff, Kansas
John Donley, Kansas Livestock Association
Jan Lyons, Lyons Ranch, Manhattan, Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on SB 475 -Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 475**, and requested Staff Raney Gilliland to brief the committee. He said the bill amends several sections of Wildlife and Parks law, changing the name of a group who donate hunted meat to the hungry from Kansas Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry to Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry, Inc. The bill includes a Kansas Register effective date. A fiscal note for the committee will be provided at a later date.

The Chairman introduced Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, who spoke as a proponent for **SB 475**, indicating no significant changes should occur with the modifications (Attachment 1).

Tony DeRossett, State Chairman, Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, spoke in favor of the proposed change requesting the agency name be changed to Hunter Feeding the Hungry (Attachment 2). He said the organization has used 750 deer harvested along the I-70 corridor to feed about 150,000 hungry people in Kansas this past year. A goal for the future is to find ways to protect crops from damage caused by deer.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **SB 475**.

The Chairman opened the hearing on HCR 5034 - Urging Congress to enact revisions to the Federal Beef Promotion and Research Act

Staff Raney Gilliland briefed the committee, explaining that the resolution urges Congress to amend the beef promotion and research act of 1985. The primary goal is to strengthen the production of beef in the marketplace; an assessment of one dollar per head is to be collected each time cattle are sold, whether those

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cattle are imported or domestic. Mr. Gilliland said the assessments are used for research studies in heart disease and dietary cholesterol and the role of low-fat beef in human diets. He indicated that the bill would allow a minimum of 50% of the beef checkoff assessments to be used for promotion of United States born, raised and processed beef.

John Donley, Assistant General Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), spoke in opposition to **HCR 5034**, stating the resolution as presented needs additional study before being implemented ([Attachment 3](#)). He said the current beef checkoff program is successful and should remain at the discretion of the cattle producers.

Jan Lyons, Lyons Ranch, Manhattan, Kansas, spoke in opposition to **HCR 5034**, saying that the beef producers designed and implemented the checkoff program to benefit all producers ([Attachment 4](#)). He expressed concerns regarding the limitations this resolution may place on the beef promotion program. He reported the Cattlemen's Beef Board has had on-going discussions over the past two years to determine potential improvements to the current program.

Brandy Carter, Executive Director, Kansas Cattlemen's Association, spoke in favor of **HCR 5034**, saying that United States producers of beef should be given the opportunity to promote their products to homeland consumers ([Attachment 5](#)). At present, the mandate does not permit producers this privilege; retailers of beef products are permitted to use the checkoff funds. Ms. Carter said that under the current act, checkoff funds may be used to promote generic product only. She apprised the committee of the number of signatures garnered in a petition to sanction the amendment allowing a portion of the beef checkoff dollars to be used for promoting United States born, raised and processed beef.

Daryl Larson, Vice-President, Kansas Farmers Union, McPherson, Kansas, voiced his position as a proponent of **HCR 5034**. Mr. Larson encouraged committee members to examine the issue from the producers point of view as to what is right for them, primarily, the promotion of United States beef to consumers at home ([Attachment 6](#)).

David Pfrang, a cattle producer from Goff, Kansas, spoke as a proponent of **HCR 5034**. He strongly advocates measures to assure beef producers the ability to use beef checkoff moneys to promote their own products ([Attachment 7](#)).

Dorothy Goodman, a producer of U.S. cattle for more than twenty years and a member of the U.S. Cattlemen's Association and the Kansas Cattlemen's Association, speaking in favor of **HCR 5034**, provided historical background of the Beef Checkoff Program, which was approved by cattle producers over twenty years ago. She said a Checkoff Enhancement Task Force was established in 2006 to suggest changes in the program. In that year a survey revealed that less than six percent supported an increase in the assessment rate. ([Attachment 8](#)). Ms. Goodman said while the United States Cattlemen's Association believes the survey results indicate that producers want to maintain a self promotion program, she sees the need for revision of the current Beef Research and Promotion Act.

Lee Robbins, a third-generation cattle producer from Yates Center, Kansas, supports **HCR 5034** and advocates using the checkoff moneys to promote locally grown cattle ([Attachment 9](#)). He said imported beef is increasing the competitive market.

Mike Callicrate, Ranch Foods Direct, LLC, Colorado Springs, Colorado, provided written testimony, which was read by Jim Dobbins ([Attachment 10](#)). {Written Only}

Jim Dobbins, Goff, Kansas, maintains a small operation fattening calves using an all-natural method of feeding. He supports the beef checkoff assessment and advocates using those dollars to promote USA produced beef. Mr. Dobbins holds the position that all imported beef should be assessed the same and used to further promote United States raised beef ([Attachment 11](#)).

Wanda Kinney, representing DWK Farms and a member of Kansas Cattlemen's Association, added her support for **HCR 5034**, saying the act should allow all producer checkoff funds to be used for promotion of United States raised and processed beef ([Attachment 12](#)).

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Don Rezac, a former legislator who served on the Agriculture Committee and is presently a farmer/rancher in Emmet, Kansas, sees the passage of this resolution as favorable in allowing a minimum of 50% beef checkoff assessments for promoting United States raised and processed beef (Attachment 13).

The Chairman closed the hearing on HCR5034.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2008, at 3:30 p.m.