

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 February 28, 2007, in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Svaty (excused)  
Representative Gatewood (excused)  
Representative Powell (excused)  
Representative Feuerborn (excused)  
Representative Flora (excused)

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes  
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees:

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President, Kansas Livestock Association  
Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending:

See attached list.

**SB 191 - Concerning big game and wild turkey violations**

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, spoke to the members regarding **SB 191**, a bill to amend **K.S.A. 32-1032** by adding a comma for clarification of the provisions in subsection (a). Mr. Tymeson requested the bill be passed out and placed on the Consent Calendar (Attachment 1).

**SB 192 - Concerning permits to take big game**

Mr. Tymeson commented on the provisions of **SB 192**, limiting the applications for Commission permits to only local chapters of nonprofit groups promoting hunting and fishing within the state (Attachment 2). He requested passage of the bill.

**SCR 1604 - Urging Congress to allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat.**

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department, presented an overview of **SCR 1604**, a resolution urging Congress to allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat. The Federal government requires adherence to specific guidelines under Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), and when those requirements are met, shipping to other states can occur. However, Congress has not acted on this issue. This resolution seeks to eliminate the holding pattern. Answering a question, Mr. Gilliland said that the U. S. Department of Agriculture evaluates the State inspection process, providing one-half of the cost and the Kansas Department of Agriculture pays the remaining half. He further stated that the small processing plants must meet all federal requirements before distribution of meat products can cross state lines.

Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President, Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), spoke as a proponent of **SCR 1604** (Attachment 3). He said that KLA is supportive of the resolution, which will benefit producers by providing additional marketing options. Mr. Beam alluded to the high level of safety in the distribution of meat and food both intrastate and that sold outside state boundaries. In answer to a question, Mr. Beam stated the move toward the HACCP program requirements will be imperative for all states.

Written testimony was submitted by Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director, Kansas Farm Bureau(KFB), in support of **SCR 1604** (Attachment 4). He spoke briefly on behalf of the members of KFB farmers and ranchers and urged the committee to pass the resolution favorably.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture submitted written testimony in support of **SCR 1604** (Attachment 5).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2007.