



House Agriculture Committee  
Chairman Hoffman  
*VIA EMAIL*

January 28, 2018

Re: Opposition to House Bill 2477

Rep. Kyle Hoffman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Midwest Alliance for Animals (MAA), a coalition of Kansas animal shelters that provide services to local communities. Together, our organizations care for over 29,146 animals annually and approximately 1.16 million people in Southern, Central, and Northeastern Kansas. Our combined budgets total over \$12.8 million annually, funded by local government partners, private donations, and program services, and we employ hundreds of Kansas residents.

We want to see the Animal Facilities Inspection program fully funded. Only with appropriate funding and well-trained staff, will annual inspections be done for each licensee to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of animals and people in Kansas.

The MAA is opposed to House Bill 2477 primarily because of the outstanding legislative post audit that is specifically reviewing the efficiency of the use of funds and resources of the Animal Facilities Inspection program under the Department of Agriculture. Increasing fees to subsequently increase revenue for the department while this audit is ongoing is illogical, and it is particularly troubling when there is over \$89,000 of revenue generated from the fee increase that is unaccounted for in the fiscal note attached to this bill.

We are in support of a fully funded Animal Facilities Inspection program once we have a better understanding of how resources are used.

Sincerely,

Katie Barnett  
Animal Welfare Counsel

Mark Eby, President/CEO  
Kansas Humane Society, *Wichita*

Melissa Reed, Executive Director  
Prairie Paws Animal Shelter, *Ottawa*

Nate Meador, President/CEO  
Great Plains SPCA, *Merriam*

Vanessa Cowie, Animal Services Manager  
Salina Animal Services, *Salina*

Kate Meghji, Executive Director  
Lawrence Humane Society, *Lawrence*

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