

To: House Agriculture Committee, Representative Ken Rahjes, Chair

From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: March 7, 2022

Re: HB 2723 - Civil penalties for animal transport violations

Chairman Rahjes and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) in support of HB 2723 with the amendments proposed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

KFB is supportive of the underlying intent of HB 2723. The monitoring and tracking of animal diseases is of the utmost importance for the health, safety, and economic wellbeing of the Kansas livestock industry. While we have some concerns with the language in the current version of this legislation, we have worked with KDA and the Kansas Livestock Association to arrive at agreed upon language to alleviate our concerns and assure that KDA can continue to do their job of protecting the Kansas livestock industry.

With the proposed amendment, we believe that KDA will have the tools necessary to encourage compliance in situations that have been troublesome in the past.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2723. We encourage your favorable support the bill with the suggested amendment as it moves through the process