



Since 1894

To: House Committee on Local Government
Rep. Emil Bergquist, Chair

From: Jackie Garagiola, Associate Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **SB 162 AN ACT creating the Riley county unincorporated area nuisance abatement act and the Crawford county unincorporated area nuisance abatement act, establishing procedures for the removal and abatement of nuisances; providing for the assessment of costs of such abatement.**

Date: March 11, 2024

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Thank you, Chairman Bergquist and members of the Committee for allowing the Kansas Livestock Association the opportunity to express its opposition for SB 162. Our members have a long history of supporting individual freedom and private property rights. While KLA appreciates the exemption for agriculture, this legislation still poses a potential threat to landowners as an interference of private property rights.

Rather than defer to an individual's freedom to decide how to use his or her property, SB 162 would substitute for landowner decisions, the subjective opinion of the board of county commissioners. The government rather than the individual would make decisions about how private property should look and for what purposes the property could be used and undermines the expectation landowners have to operate their land as they see fit. This concern is especially prevalent in urban counties where a clear juxtaposition exists from cities and the surrounding land.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. While KLA disagrees with the general direction of SB 162 and opposes the bill, it appreciates the inclusion of existing exemptions for agriculture.