

Anti KY SB105

The response is that while you agree that anything government does has a chance of taking away our liberties, you are much more concerned about the impact that extremist animal rights organizations like PETA and HSUS are having across the country. These organizations have a stated goal of abolishing animal agriculture, through regulation of welfare, through banning of horse slaughter (and don't think they aren't looking at ways to use this to ban slaughter of those cute pigs and lambs) through lawsuits on air and water quality, through food safety issues and any other way they can come up with. This legislation is a proactive response to show consumers that livestock producers are committed to caring for their animals.

While no one likes having government overseeing our personal property, in today's world, the consumer feels that they should have a say in how you raise their food supply, we believe that this is the best choice to ensure that Kentucky's farmers will be able to continue to produce livestock in the future and that this will give Ky's livestock producers a competitive advantage over states like Michigan, California and Colorado who have already buckled to HSUS once and will likely do so again. HSUS is already starting a movement to outlaw tail docking in California, having won legislation that prevents tail docking in cows, they don't see it will be any problem to outlaw it in lambs and pigs as well.

If the concern is related the makeup, it is an extremely broad makeup and if 7 members of this 13 member panel end up being against animal agriculture, we are a lost cause anyway – because the major species are represented, as well as research and veterinary specialists.

This is a way for producers to have a united front against HSUS and PETA and start throwing road blocks in their way – since they have been successful in every state they started in, except Ohio when Ohio became proactive and passed this through constitutional amendment. This legislation is the only thing that has ever made HSUS back up - If we allow HSUS to split us, with their \$120 million/ year budget (which is larger than all the commodity groups combined) they will go from state to state and destroy animal ag. If we are proactive ahead of them and go from state to state with this legislation we can begin to convince consumers that the care of our animals is of utmost concern to us.

HSUS and animal rights groups have begun to use religion as a very effective method for constructing messages that cause consumers of meat products to feel guilty about the food they consume.

Agricultural literacy is needed to persuade consumers to continue their use of agricultural products and learn both sides of the issue that is at hand. This legislation provides Ky producers with the upper hand in the ag literacy battle and a great teachable moment for consumers.

We do the right thing, in the right way, for the right reasons, and as an industry we can use this legislation to tell consumers our side.

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