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PAT PROCTOR

41ST DISTRICT

LEAVENWORTH, FORT LEAVENWORTH & KICKAPOO
CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

January 23, 2025

Chairman Sean Tarwater
Chair, House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development

Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for allowing me to appear in strong support of HB 2035, amending the definition of land devoted to agricultural use for property tax purposes to include trail rides as a ranching activity to qualify as an agritourism activity.

I am a strong supporter of the “home rule” authority of our municipalities. But we as a Legislature also have a responsibility to protect the rights, including property rights, of our constituents.

Watkins “C” Ranch is a ranch in northern High Prairie Township in my district. Because they are offering trail rides to the public, Leavenworth County has reclassified their property as commercial rather than agricultural for the purposes of property taxation. As the population of Kansas becomes increasingly urban, getting Kansans out of the city to experience rural Kansas is more vital than ever. We should be encouraging, not discouraging, ranches and farms from providing agri-tourism opportunities. That is why I have sponsored and filed this bill.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and hope that you will pass it out favorably.

Sincerely,

Pat Proctor, PhD.

Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired

State Representative

Kansas House District #41

Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth, and Kickapoo