



February 13, 2025

The Honorable Susan Humphries, Chairperson
House Committee on Judiciary
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 582-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: HB 2253 AN ACT making the theft of livestock or implements of husbandry a severity level 5, nonperson felony

Position: Proponent

The Kansas Cattleman's Association (KCA) formed in 1998 serves USA agriculture and independent beef producers since 1998. The Kansas Cattlemen's Association is committed to restoring profits, self-esteem, freedom, fair trade, trust, and community pride back to the farms, ranches and rural communities across Kansas and the nation.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) and its members support House Bill 2253 and its defining of livestock or implements of husbandry a severity level 5 nonperson felony.

Theft of livestock and implements of husbandry impacts not only producers but consumers and our communities. These thefts range from only a few head of goats to 50 head of cattle along with the theft of vehicles, trailers, and equipment. This loss of time and money impacts the bottom line of the producer but also removes livestock that was destined for consumers.

KCA has been in conversation this past year with Kansas Brand Investigators, producers, and other law enforcement about what is a step that can be taken to help with livestock theft in Kansas. Increasing the severity of this crime was heard universally from all of these groups. We ask on behalf of law enforcement, the public, and livestock producers that you pass this bill favorably.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Steele", is positioned above the printed name and title of the signatory.

Matthew T. Steele, Ph.D, P.E.
Kansas Cattlemen's Association
Executive Director