

Respected Members of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

I am a twelve year old goat producer in the wonderful state of Kansas. I started raising goats when I was five by taking my change jar into the bank and cashing it in for dollars. I had a \$250.00 from my change to buy my first goats. I was able to buy five goats. (The market has changed a lot since then. I might be able to get one or two for that price in today's sale barn market.)

During my first year with goats I study hard to see what would work best for me. I went to numerous sales and shows. I was able to quickly make a profit on the goats that I bought and was able to buy registered Boers and Toggenbergs.

I started to show my goats at numerous different shows and have been able to win national awards with photos of my goats.

When I heard about House Bill 2099 I became very concerned that it would make it so that I do not make any money at all on my goats.

Last year I spent \$2,060 on quality goats to improve my herds and for show wethers. (This was both dairy and Boer goats.)

Here is a rough estimate for my bill *just for my show goats*: feed was roughly \$800.00, vet bills averaged around \$150.00, show supplies (clippers, blades, soaps, blankets, bedding, etc.) were around \$200.00, show entry fees were around \$150.00. This makes my total bill for my show goats roughly \$1,300. Add a goat check off bill to this and I would have even a harder time breaking even. I use my commercial goat herd to offset my high show goat bill.

In the state of Kansas many places cannot award youth with money like they do in other states, due to extension rules and regulations. To offset this many Kansas Goat Shows award youth with prizes, more often than not this is just a ribbon. Don't get me wrong I love the learning of showing goats and just plain showing them.

I have listened too many out of state goat breeder's talk. I think that Kansas needs to give back to the youth and do what some of the other states do. For example if you had 100 goat producers put \$200 into a goat fund for a specific use you would have \$20,000. This is done in Oklahoma and the money is used to give back to the youth for showing their goats in top honor sales.

Why are other states giving back to the youth and Kansas is proposing a bill that will take away from the youth's profits even more? The current bill only states KSU as an ex officio nonvoting member. I know that Fort Hays is doing goat research, there are numerous junior colleges, plus there are numerous 4-H and FFA chapters that are working to bring better education into their schools and communities. Why is there a specific college put on this bill?

I was a member of KYMGA for the past two years. I helped raise money and knew the amount of money that was raised by KYMGA members. I went to or listened in to ever KMGA meeting that was held this year. It was very interesting to see that KMGA members said they would sponsor something and then took it out of the KYMGA's funds. They promised the youth \$500.00 to start them off and let them have their own checking account; to date this has not happened. For a youth's award banquet an adult had to ask for youth's money back so that the youth could receive their awards. There was a heated discussion just to get money for the banquet, even though it was the youth's money and was to be used for the year end awards banquet. For this reason I will not be a part of KYMGA and wonder: Why do I, as I child, have to pay into a check off bill headed by KMGA that I have seen take money from youth? Will they take money from the check off bill and use it for KMGA like they did KYMGA funds?

I know I cannot vote yet, but I still feel that I deserve a say on something that will affect me for years to come. I urge you to let House Bill 2099 go no further by voting no on it.

A twelve year old goat producer and showman;

JaelAnn Hoover