

**Federal and State Affairs Committee**

**Testimony in support of SB 241**

**By**

**Malissa Meyer**

**1/31/12**

Thank you Senators and Committee members for allowing me to show my support for Senate Bill 241, this bill is critical for future agricultural jobs in the state of Kansas. My name is Malissa Meyer and I am a college student majoring in Equine Industry Management. Upon graduation I'm going to need a job. The passage of SB 241 several thousand jobs will be immediately created. I was optimistic with the future of horse related careers in Kansas which is why I decided to go to school and major in an Equine field. I have worked with horses my whole life and want to make a career out of it; however, SB 66 has pushed horses and horse related jobs out of the state. I'm undoubtedly going to be forced to look for a job in other states unless we can pass SB 241 to reestablish racing and breeding industries within Kansas.

I stand behind SB 241 over SB 319 because more slot machine revenue goes directly back to the agriculture industry. This investment in the future of Kansas agriculture will undoubtedly result in the creation of many jobs. As an example of this job creating ability, let's consider the number of jobs involved with breeding a single mare.

- 1) A marketing/graphics design/advertising employee responsible for advertising the stallion.
- 2) A mating analysis/pedigree scholar/bloodstock agent that assists in making the best breeding decision.
- 3) The local veterinarian that performs the yearly coggins test, uterine culture/biopsy, and breeding soundness exam prior to breeding, ultrasound diagnosis post breeding.
- 4) The stallion farm booking agent, responsible for the signed contract and all other paperwork.
- 5) Van/trailer driver for delivering and retrieving the mare to/from the breeding farm.
- 6,7) Breeding farm employees to receive, tease, and prep the mare for breeding.
- 8-12) Most professional farms have 5-6 people directly involved in the breeding process.
- 13) Employee responsible for feeding and care of the mare while at breeding farm.

This scenario covers only a short period of the year, and does not account for the laboratory technicians for semen collection, processing, and shipping for breeds that allow artificial insemination.

We have looked at 13-15 people whose jobs are created to handle breeding a mare, not to mention the vast other opportunities created by the industry. With the money going back to the agriculture industry in SB241 breeders will be enticed to breed horses in Kansas which will bring the previously mentioned employment positions to the state as well.

Your decision on this bill will create employment opportunities for me and other horse enthusiasts here in Kansas. Keep us, keep me in Kansas.