

Legislative Wrap-Up after the Veto Session

Steve Hitchcock – KAAA Government Affairs

1. Pesticide Law – The Governor signed HB2607 into law on April 18, 2024.
 - a. The updated Kansas Pesticide Law should meet the mandates set down by the EPA that KDA, along with various ag organizations – including us – have been working through for the past 2-3 years.
 - b. Going forward, KDA will now have to translate the legislative framework of the new law into rules and regulations that implement the new requirements in a way that is logical, fair, and effective in reaching the goals of the legislation. We are a part of this process and will be providing our unique perspective.
 - c. KDA has passed along two EPA releases this week – one on Dicamba comment and the other on acephate. I'll attach those also.
2. Ag-Gag Bill (HB 2047) – Along with veto overrides, the legislature gives themselves pretty free rein to mop up legislation that they didn't get around to in the regular session. HB2047 was one that they passed as part of committee reports.
 - a. 2047 is the one I talked to Chairmen Rahjes and Peck about including language that explicitly excluded Part 137 operations from being affected by the proposed law. They decided to keep the language the way it was.
 - b. The Chairs and committee members understood our desire to not deal with language in a state law that is superseded by current FAA regulations, but I'm not sure I got the point across that Kansas law enforcement (and the KLA) should be even less enthusiastic about the change in law than we are.
 - c. KLA's target in putting a 500-foot minimum over "animal production facilities" is drone spying by activist groups, but the law is written pretty sloppily and could possibly be used more broadly.

- d. Going forward: I've talked to KLA about cleaning up the language and also think that letting the FAA know that the legislature is trying to move into their turf.