

Representative Scott Biggs
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**Assistant Majority Leader
Vice Chair**
Agricultural & Rural Development
Committee
Criminal Justice & Corrections
Public Safety
A&B Natural Resources

House of Representatives

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

September 7, 2016

Dear Friend and Ag Producer,

Myself and several of my fellow members were saddened to see that the political attack on agriculture had reached a new level last week when the California Legislature passed SB1383, methane reduction, which is a direct attack on production agriculture by a certain activist group. We write you today with one simple request. Please take a moment and look at what Oklahoma has to offer.

In Oklahoma, agriculture is not only a corner stone of our economy, but a way of life that helps define our State. In Oklahoma, 98% of our farms are family owned and operated and help define our small communities by holding true to our core values: stewardship of our land and resources, encouraging younger generations to learn about agriculture and actively protecting agriculture through legislation.

Examples of Recent Legislation that protects Agriculture in Oklahoma:

Agritourism HB 1638: When we saw farmers and ranchers closing their doors to educational opportunities due to lawsuits and canceled insurance policies, we took a stand against trial attorneys and passed a bill that limited producer liability for allowing the public to view agriculture first hand. As a result we have seen a dramatic increase in producers enrolling in our Agritourism Program through the Department of Agriculture. The bill passed 121 -18.

Oklahoma Youth Expo: Even in the midst of a budget shortfall, we reiterated our support for youth programs that support Agriculture. The Oklahoma Youth Expo is the shining star of our support, as that Expo is now the World's Largest Youth Livestock show, last year paying out over 1 million dollars in scholarships and premium checks for the participants.

Cattle Rustling HB 2504: A majority of the bills filed last session dealing with criminal law sought to lower the punishment and tended to be "soft on crime". That was not the case with our agriculture bill that actually increased the punishment and allows the criminal to be charged a separate felony for each animal stolen. The bill passed 116-21.

Right to Farm Amendment HJR 1012: When Animal Right Activists targeted Oklahoma with legislation to hurt and eliminate production agriculture, like what was passing in other states, we took a different stance. We not only voted no on their bills, we introduced legislation to Amend our State Constitution to protect Oklahoma citizens from these harmful bills. HJR 1012, which passed the legislature 124 -13, calls for a vote of the people this November to Guarantee the Right to Farm and Ranch in our state, and prohibits laws dealing with agriculture that are not necessary to protect the health safety and welfare of the public.

I appreciate your time, and would encourage you to look at Oklahoma as a place where you can relocate as your state continues to legislate you out of business. Feel free to give anyone of us a call at any time as we would be happy to visit with you and help arrange a visit to our great state.

Sincerely,

A row of six handwritten signatures in black ink, corresponding to the representatives listed below.

Representative Scott Biggs
Representative Casey Murdock

Representative Leslie Osborn
Representative John Pfeiffer

Representative Scooter Park
Representative Mike Sanders