

Lexi Rittenhouse

Youth Exhibitor at the Clark County Fair

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Creech, Ranking Member Brent, and Members of the House Agriculture Committee- Thank You for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 507.

Hi, I am Lexi Rittenhouse from Clark County. I am a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Northwestern Elementary School. I am also a 3<sup>rd</sup> year 4H'er. On my family farm we raise cattle, goats, chickens, turkeys and ducks. We sell the eggs, and we also raise and sell broilers and turkeys.

4H means a lot to me and my family. The motto of 4H is "To Make the Best Better" and I believe it does just that! It teaches us a lot. Our livestock projects teach us hard work, dedication, responsibility and respect. Raising our projects and preparing for the fair takes a lot of work, but it makes us better people.

Unfortunately, not everyone has the facilities to raise a calf, goat, hog or sheep. So, poultry projects are more suitable for those situations. But 6 turkeys cost twice as much to raise as 3 turkeys do. Feed costs have gone way up over the last few years, as have most things. So by allowing kids to purchase and raise 3 poultry projects as opposed to 6 makes it a much more profitable project.

I agree with the minimum of 3 birds because birds of a feather flock together and they like to have at least 1 buddy. Birds do better when there is more than one.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank You.