



OFFICE OF

No. SB 1673

**THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

April 28, 2014

TIME SIGNED: 4:53pm

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA SENATE  
SECOND SESSION OF THE  
FIFTY FOURTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 1673:

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED Senate Bill 1673.

SB1673 creates the Commodity Research Enhancement Act. Under the Act, any nonprofit commodity organization may petition the Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry for approval to conduct a state assessment referendum. The Bill requires the Commissioner to schedule within fifteen (15) days and hold public hearings within forty (40) days on the petition. Once the state assessment referendum is held, the Bill requires the Commissioner to certify the results of the referendum election.

There are two (2) main issues with this Bill. First, although the Bill provides, "The designated nonprofit commodity organization is responsible for all expenses incurred in connection with the referendum," the Bill is not clear that the designated nonprofit commodity organization would be responsible for the expenses incurred by the Commissioner in conducting the public hearing or certifying the referendum election results. Second, the Bill criminalizes any violation of the Commodity Research Enhancement Act, by way of a misdemeanor punishable by up to one (1) year in county jail and/or up to a One Thousand Dollar (\$1,000.00) fine, regardless of one's intent or lack thereof to violate the Act. These two issues result in this Bill being contrary to the best interests of the State of Oklahoma.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mary Fallon

**RECEIVED**

APR 28 2014

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY  
OF STATE

5:52pm

By Becky Walsh

Date/Time April 28, 2014 5:44pm