

Chairman Powell ,
Members of the Ag Committee ,

I would like to offer my support for HB2295 in regards to extending the doe hunting season for a number of reasons. I farm with my two brothers in western Reno, Stafford, and Rice counties. The week of February 7, while driving cattle, I observed a herd of over 60 deer grazing on soybean and milo stalks. Through the winter months we regularly observe 15 - 30 per herd, but this winter the numbers have increased.

My son and daughters have been attending school in the Fairfield school district, and, over the last 5 years of driving to school functions have had 5 collisions with deer. My wife has had an accident involving deer that totaled our car. Anyone in this area has noticed an increase in deer carcasses lying along the roadways. We usually have hunters approach us about bow and early rifle season, but, typically these are trophy-buck hunters, and this time of the year conflicts with later grazing of livestock on stalks and grass. We need hunters who seek only does, and a longer season so that they can be successful.

The deer population needs to be more tightly controlled and it seems a waste not to harvest them so as to benefit someone. Also a system needs to be in place to put hunters in contact with land operators and vice versa to target the doe population specifically.

Respectfully,

Steve Schweizer