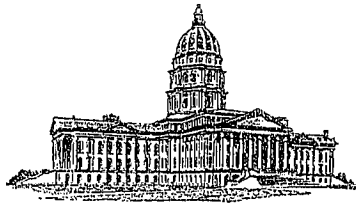


State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Joe Seiwert
Representative, 101st District

- COMMITTEES:
- Energy and Utilities
 - Economic Development and Tourism
 - Veterans, Military & Homeland Security
 - Local Government
 - Vision 2020

Dear Chairman Ostmeyer

Members of Senate Natural Resources

Thank you for allowing me to testify on SB380 concerning crossbow usage during regular bow season. I urge you to consider this bill for a number of reasons. I'm sure you will hear negative testimony from the Kansas Bow Hunters Association on the bill also. I will try to keep mine short and to the point. I'm here to give testimony to support measures to reduce the deer population, make highways safer, reduce excessive crop damage, and increase hunting activities and permits for Wildlife and Parks. This is not about just about the rights of the Bow Hunters Association, it is about each and every one of you on this committee and your constituents who have been personally affected by the large number of deer accidents, injuries, crop losses, and hunters. If anyone of you can say that no one in my district has had an accident or crop loss with a deer, than I am sorry for taking your time today. Otherwise, I am speaking on behalf of the thousands of afore mentioned constituents in your district that trust you will represent them with positive outcomes, not just because they come here to testify.

Four years ago, I began working with Wildlife and Parks to increase the deer hunting season to cut down on the number of highway accidents, permanent injuries, deaths, and crop damage in my area. Each year when we would run a bill, the only opposition we received was basically from the Kansas Bow Hunters Association who put pressure on Wildlife and Parks to also oppose this bill. I could never figure out why until a week ago. I went to their website to see why they were opposed each and every time we tried to cut down on the deer herds and there were the answers. I attached a sheet that I took directly off the website and cut and pasted it, no editing. It basically states they will actively oppose any legislation that will reduce the deer population that might take out a buck that they believe is for them. I do not believe they care about the safety issues.

In the last four years since I started this program, there were over 36,719 accidents, 13 fatalities, and 1,021 permanent disabilities from deer accidents. This information is attached and directly off the Kansas Department of Transportation web site. Also included is a state map with all the accidents in your district. These are the constituents that I am here today to represent; people from your districts that were unable to attend, especially the 13 who will never be able to make it to committee. Yet we worry we might take the big buck away from a special group of hunters that openly proclaim their only purpose is to grow the population of deer so they, and only they, have the first opportunity to get their trophy, regardless of the 36,719 other people in the state who might just disagree with them.

I also attended several meetings across the state at the request of the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to see firsthand the opposition from these groups and totally agree with him on the difficulty of trying to increase hunting with this increased opposition. That is why I am here today; to support Wildlife and Parks and your constituents who are unable to be here to testify on their behalf of this bill to allow crossbows. This bill is a step in the right direction in allowing more hunters the opportunity to hunt, thus decreasing the risk of more unnecessary injuries and deaths.

One thing they will tell you is this bill will not make a dent reducing the problem. If that is the case, then they why are they so opposed to allowing people to hunt with the crossbow.

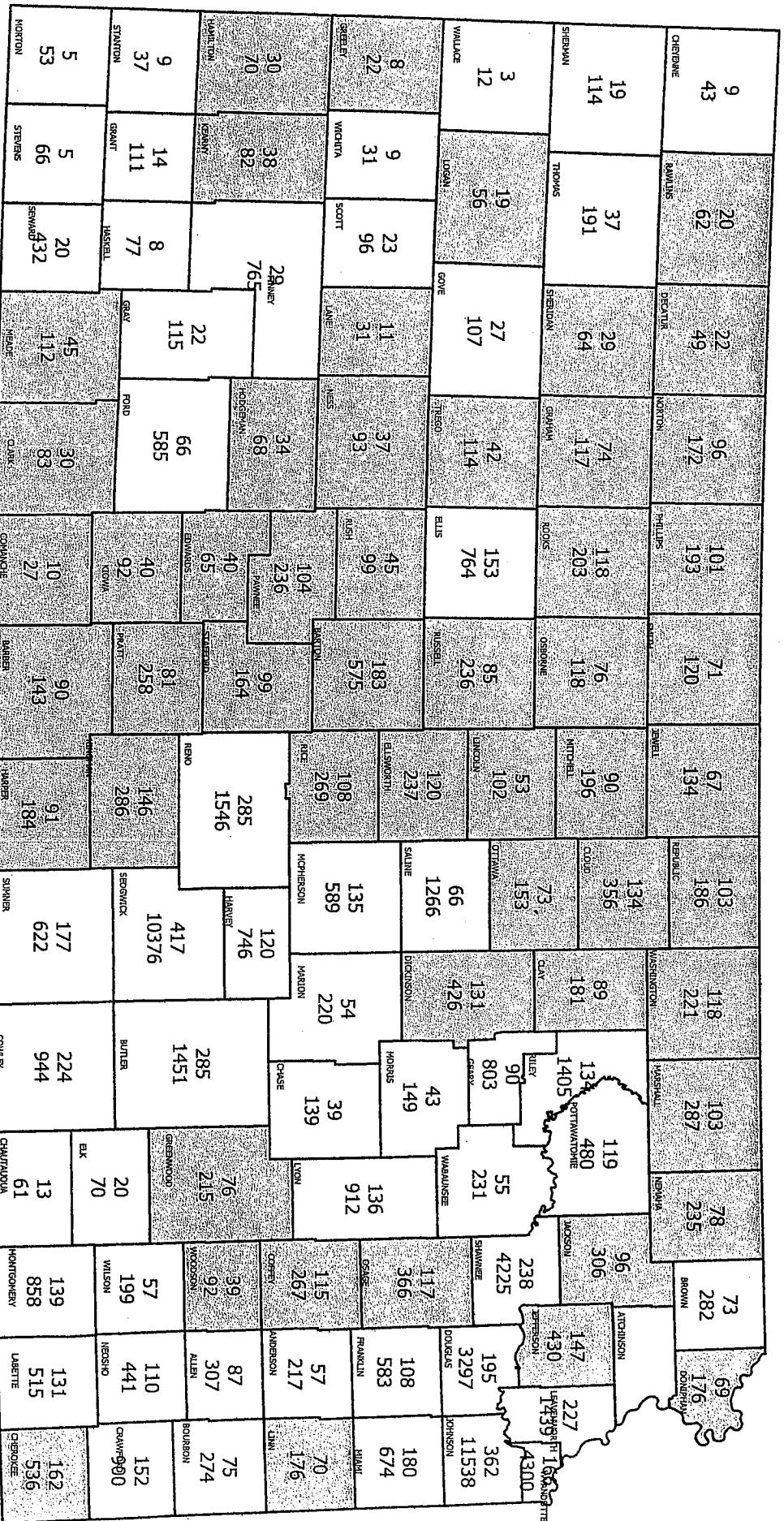
It all came about because I had coffee one morning with a lifelong friend of mine. This was a neighbor who grew up with me. We went to high school and college together; we'd been skiing, rafting, and motorcycling in Sturgis together. We had been riding motorcycles together since the seventh grade. We farmed as neighbors and helped each other. That day we had coffee together was a beautiful day and so he invited me to ride out to dinner that night on our bikes. I was unable to go because I was busy, and that was the last time I talked to him. He was killed that evening when a deer hit him on his motorcycle less than three blocks from his home. That could just as easily been me since I was supposed to be with him that night. That's another reason why I support this bill. Please, for all those not here to testify, give them the respect to favorably pass SB380 out of committee.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me,

Rep Joe Seiwert

101st district

TOTAL ACCIDENTS AND DEER ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY



COUNTY HAS 30
PERCENT OR GREATER
DEER ACCIDENTS

DEER ACCIDENTS

TOTAL ACCIDENTS

KANSAS MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT SUMMARY INVOLVING COLLISION WITH DEER

| Year | ACCIDENTS | | | | PEOPLE | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Total | Fatal | Injury | PDO* | Deaths | Injuries |
| 2008 | 9,381 | 6 | 264 | 9,111 | 6 | 318 |
| 2009 | 9,631 | 3 | 248 | 9,380 | 3 | 290 |
| 2010 | 9,285 | 2 | 268 | 9,015 | 2 | 312 |
| 2011** | 8,422 | 2 | 241 | 8,179 | 2 | 281 |
| Total: | 36,719 | 13 | 1,021 | 35,685 | 13 | 1,201 |

* Property Damage Only accidents

** 2011 data are incomplete and unofficial at this time.



.....a fraternal organization of Kansas bowhunters. Bowhunting is the primary interest of the membership and the ultimate aim is the proper harvest of wild game with a bow and arrow in a humane and sportsman-like manner.

~~The impetus of the KBA has been directed not to the taking of large numbers of game animals,~~ but rather toward the taking of game in an ethical, humane manner

KBA is a member of and supports ~~The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America.~~ This organization is the single most important collection of bowhunting defenders in the nation.

Members are kept abreast of topics that relate to the bowhunting sport via a bimonthly magazine, "The Kansas Bowhunter". Each issue includes columns from the Executive Council Members, various club news and shoot dates are included. ~~legislative updates are given.~~

The highlight of the organizational year is the Convention and Awards Banquet. The last weekend of February finds members from across Kansas and various other states gathering for a weekend of business meetings, banquets, clinics, ~~and displaying of trophy animals harvested by members during the~~ past season.

**Kansas Bowhunters Association, Inc.
By-Laws Items 2 and 6**

ITEM 2

Purposes: It is the purpose of the Kansas Bowhunters Association, Inc. to be an organization whose membership consists of the Bowhunters and who vow:

~~To keep the membership informed of current state and national events that affect bowhunting~~