



Kansas Cervid Breeders Association

Date: March 12, 2013
To: House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
Rep. Sharon Schwartz, Chairperson
From: Travis Lowe, Kansas Cervid Breeders Association
Re: Support of Sub for SB 57

Chairman Schwartz and members of the committee, I am Travis Lowe appearing on behalf of the Kansas Cervid Breeders Association (KCBA). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Sub for SB 57.

The KCBA represents the farmed elk and deer breeders in the state. Elk and deer are part of the cervid species, which includes all members of the deer family. Since the 1980's, domestic elk and deer have been raised across the state that cater to several markets. The Kansas cervid industry contributes to the overall \$3.3 billion dollar national cervid industry.

Sub SB 57 is the animal health bill introduced by the Kansas Department of Agriculture that addresses domestic deer and poultry. Sub for SB 57 passed the Senate last month, 40-0.

The KCBA would like to briefly comment on the cervid component of the bill. The cervid language in the bill, Sections 2 and 4, is the product of a joint effort of compromise between the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, and the KCBA leadership. The three groups met numerous times to ensure everyone was comfortable with the changes. Section 4 is essentially cleanup language that more clearly spells out enforcement measures and the deer license process.

The changes ensure every owner of elk and/or deer must purchase a license from the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The language offers a clear enforcement process for owners that have failed to purchase a license. Moreover, the language raises the cap for the license fee. The license fee is based on a tiered system of the number of cervids owned.

The KCBA respectfully asks the committee to support the passage of this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this matter.

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House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
Date 3-12-2013
Attachment # 3