

Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

My name is Mike Nyhoff – this is my personal opinion. I am a Landowner (80 acres) in Smith County, a life-long hunter and angler, a member of several conservation groups and (full disclosure) a Wildlife Biologist for KDWP.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB2331: Relating to the "Limited" Transferability of Deer Tags.

Bills similar to this one seem to rear their ugly heads every year in an attempt to serve special interests (guides/outfitters) and commercialize a limited natural resource. The previous bills have failed because they do not serve the best interest of Kansans'. There is nothing new in this bill and it is time to put this issue to rest.

One of the founding principles in America was that wildlife belongs to ALL people - not just who owns the land. Kansas' current deer management is science-based, is regulated by a State Agency, is focused first and foremost on providing opportunity to Kansans and yet still provides great opportunity to numerous non-residents.

This focus of HB2331 is to line the pockets (\$\$\$) of very few individuals through commercializing Kansas deer. There is nothing "limited" about the number of permits. It has the potential to increase the number of non-resident hunters exponentially. Because the Hunt-Own-Land (HOL) permit definition of landowner and tenants includes all family domiciled with them, a family of 4 could each purchase a HOL permit and transfer it.

HOL permits already have the potential for fraud/violations during the purchase and the limitation of only hunting on land under the control of the landowner/tenant. These permits are commonly known as "Hunt anywhere, hunt anybody, hunt any way".

Landowners will always control ACCESS to their properties and if economic benefit is the goal, they could certainly charge fees for the access alone.

Any Kansan can purchase a deer permit over-the-counter. The issue is "Where to Hunt". With 98% of the land in private ownership, hunters depend on landowners/tenants for places to go. Leasing of land by guides/outfitters and Non-residents is already a problem for Kansans. Additional Non-resident hunters will further deprive regular non-landowner Kansans of opportunity.

This bill is not for the average landowner to gain financially. This is for Outfitters who will broker hunts, pay landowners token amounts and charge non-residents huge prices for their profit.

The discussions on HB2331-type bills often turns to "I/We want our Non-resident relatives to be able to hunt deer on our land". Kansas already has a Transferable Deer Permit system - "Special resident hunt-on-your-own-land deer permit". Landowners/Tenants can purchase these permits and transfer them to lineal ascendant and descendant family members.

I urge you to consider the "Average Kansan" in your deliberations. These are people who can't pay thousands of dollars to hunt deer. These are people who want to enjoy the natural resources of THEIR state. These are people for whom hunting is part of Kansas quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration.

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