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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KEN CORBET
54TH DISTRICT

Rural Revitalization

Please vote for HB 2331.

Chairman Tarwater and Members of the House Commerce Committee,

Today I would like to discuss with you an issue that could significantly boost the economy of rural Kansas: transferable deer permits. Kansas has some of the best hunting in the country and it is one of our leading tourist attractions. With that said, there is significant room for improvement.

There are over 43 million acres of farm and ranch land in Kansas. Many private landowners are not willing to open up their lands to public hunting due to potential risks. These closed off lands hold a thriving deer population. HB 2331 would give landowners the ability to transfer landowner deer permits to non-Kansas residents. This would encourage landowners to open up their lands to hunting by giving the landowner the ability to make a profit by selling the deer permit to an out of state hunter who would then hunt on that landowners' property.

There is much talk these days about rural revitalization. The Kansas deer population is a valuable natural resource that is underutilized. By allowing transferable deer permits, our rural areas would see an influx of out-of-state hunters. Not only would rural landowners have the opportunity by selling their permit, but our rural communities would also benefit. Every out-of-state hunter who visits Kansas puts money into local restaurants, motels, bed & breakfasts, convenience stores, and other local businesses. This is a simple thing that can be done to help our rural communities. It will help farmers, ranchers, and our rural communities open up thousands of acres for Kansas hunters and their kids to enjoy. It brings in money to Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, has no negative effect on the deer population, and will make Kansas the most outdoor-friendly state in the country.

I ask that you strongly consider passing HB 2331 out of committee.

Rep. Ken Corbet
District 54

Kansas Rural Revitalization

HB 2331—Transferable Landowner Deer Permits:

Remember:

Without farmers and ranchers, there would be nothing to hunt or a place to hunt.

And no Kansas Fish and Game Department.

1: Doesn't establish a new or different hunting license.

2: KDWPT has testified that this transferable tag will have NO negative effect on the Kansas deer population. *see attached

3: Any transfer shall not occur until all nonresident hunting permits issued have been filled in each management unit where the regular landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permit was issued for the applicable white-tailed deer season. (Note: transfers will be limited to nonresidents.") **ONLY one transferrable permit per land owner. For example, 80 or 8 million acres—one permit!**

4: This will allow farmers and ranchers to help with crop depravation, but more importantly, it will promote rural revitalization in all 105 counties. Also, it will open up thousands of private acres for Kansas hunters and their kids to enjoy. This will benefit local **restaurants, motels, and convenience stores**. And make Kansas **the most outdoor-friendly state in the country**.

- The last 2 years there has been about 4600 out of State deer hunters who could not get a tag. 4600 tags at \$550 each would have brought **\$2,530,000*** to the KDWPT.
- The National Shooting Sports Foundation says that every out-of-state hunter will spend about \$1200 for gas, meals, shopping, lodging, etc. while in Kansas. So the 4600 hunters who were turned away kept about **5,520,000.00*** out of the rural Kansas economy.

*\$2,530,000 + 5.5 million means it has been a **\$8 million dollar loss** to the Kansas economy.

- These deer permits already exist. The only change is that Kansas farmers and ranchers will be able to use their tag or transfer it to an out-of-state deer hunter.
- Maybe by fixing this and passing this rural revitalization bill, it may allow one more generation to remain in Rural Kansas.

Chris Tymeson, Chief Counsel for Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, testifying to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations, March 5, 2018



“Well, I don’t think that deer transferable permits will do anything to adjust the deer population.”