



JOHN CARMICHAEL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

February 17, 2025

Hon. Ken Rahjes
Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
State Capitol, Room 186-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: HB 2297 Raccoon Ownership

Dear Chair Rahjes and Members of the Committee:

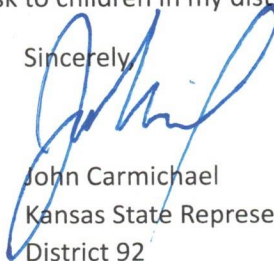
I write in opposition to HB 2297. Much of my district lies in the fork of the Little Arkansas and Arkansas rivers. It is a wooded, urban area. Raccoons likely lived here even before the first human settlers, the Native Americans who camped near the fork of the rivers.

Today, Raccoons over proliferate the area. They are destructive and dangerous to encounter in the "Urban Wild." Cartoons depict cute, gentle creatures and petting zoos also create in the minds of children that raccoons are pets which are meant to play with. I fear allowing private ownership of domesticated raccoons, permitted or not, will aggravate this dangerous situation.

Wild raccoons, even living in an urban environment carry rabies, have powerful jaws, teeth like razors and knife-like claws. Children who have seen cartoons, visited petting zoos, or under this proposed law played with permitted, domesticated raccoons, are at great risk when they encounter a cornered raccoon or a mother raccoon defending her kits, which the child believes is the friendly creature they saw in a cartoon, met at a controlled petting zoo, or even worse, under this legislation played with at a neighbors, permitted, house. This proposal is dangerous to children.

While I do not favor tracking down currently domesticated raccoons because some are my constituents "illegal" family pets, I urge the committee to not encourage through this legislation further domestication of raccoons and the attendant risk to children in my district.

Sincerely,


John Carmichael
Kansas State Representative
District 92

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