

Dear Committee members,

As a Kansas resident waterfowl hunter, I am in favor of HB2268 and ask for your support on moving this bill forward. In March of 2021, I spoke to the wildlife commission on the overcrowding of our wetlands on our very limited public grounds. More and more resident hunters were emailing and speaking to the commission which eventually got Kansas Wildlife and Parks to meet with the area managers to come up with a regulation to limit Non Resident waterfowl hunters. I have invested many hours on this matter as I have been pushed out of my own state. It is not uncommon to pull up to a boat launch or parking lot and see 10 trucks from Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Texas, South Carolina before you see one truck from Kansas. I have heard reports from Neosho Wildlife area that had 27 trucks in one parking lot with only 1 vehicle from Kansas. There are other states that have NR restrictions, South Dakota, North Dakota, Arkansas, Missouri, Wyoming, so it's not like Kansas is trying to invent something here. We rank 49th on available public ground, we have less than 1% of public ground available to hunt and if you just add up available wetlands it is staggering low. With limited public ground Kansas cannot support this southern invasion. They show up in big groups, typically 4-5 guys and they hunt 2 hours before sunrise to sunset. Once a group leaves, there are 10 more taking their place and it becomes a revolving door the entire season. Birds cannot handle this pressure as they attempt to enter the marshes during daylight hours they are simply greeted with gunfire. Our birds are going nocturnal quicker each year and sometimes within a weeks' time or they simply migrate south and out of our state. Our hunting experience keeps getting degraded as the pressure increases each and every season. Passing this bill would be a big win for our resident waterfowl hunters and the less pressure will benefit our resources, the ducks.

I would also like to state that we are not telling NR that they are not welcome here, they are still allowed to hunt 7 days a week, but we need some balance on our very limited public grounds and this bill allows Kansas residents to enjoy opening day and several days during the week. I have had several friends quit waterfowl hunting all together because they feel they have been pushed out of their local area. We simply need balance and this bill offers that.

Thank you and please support our Kansas residents.

Mike Castelli