

Letter of support for HB2268

I am writing to express my full support of the subject bill. I have been a life-long sportsman in Kansas and have been fortunate enough to experience the pre-internet and pre-commercialization years of Kansas outdoors and hunting. Specifically, I have been a licensed and certified Kansas hunter since the 70s. Our public lands and the opportunities they provided have always been a significant part of my life. I have witnessed firsthand the accelerated degradation of our natural resources and quality of public experience. This deterioration is directly and undeniably correlated with the unchecked crowding and pressure from nonresident hunters. I am not opposed to nonresident hunters, as I also have traveled to other states to hunt. Further, I have hunted out of state where non-resident waterfowl hunter restrictions applied. These restrictions are intended to preserve the quality of life of the resident hunter and prevent adverse impacts to the state's natural resources. These long-standing restrictions have been accepted and honored nationwide. They have been upheld and have been successful in achieving their intended purpose, while allowing ample opportunity for nonresidents. The fact is, several states have nonresident restrictions for waterfowl hunters for the sole purpose of preserving opportunities for residents and preventing adverse impact to the resources.

I have seen the abundance of waterfowl and public opportunities diminish drastically in my state. The constant, season-long, and sunrise to sunset pressure and disturbance has adversely impacted our refuges, public hunting areas and the wildlife that relies on them.

I personally know of several residents who have quit hunting because the stress and crowding is no longer worth it to them. It's a shame that our current and future youth are facing this problem and many will likely be crowded out of the outdoors and what they offer.

It's a shame that Kansas residents who have spent their entire lives enjoying local refuges and public lands, are no longer able or willing to endure the over-crowding from nonresident hunters.

The problem is real and the cause is indisputable. Please consider the Kansas resident and our natural resources in your consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Marvin Mikulecky
Brookville, KS