

Chairman Rahjes and committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I believe HB 2268 is detrimental as it addresses a problem in one area of the state and forces its solution on the entire state. This is particularly harmful to Cherokee County where out of state hunters and fishers contribute largely to our county tourism. In Cherokee and Crawford counties, Wildlife and Parks manage 14,500 acres of which 1,500 acres are public waters. Most of these acres are located within Cherokee County known locally as the Pits, an area that was stripped mined for coal decades ago. This area is known for its great hunting and fishing opportunities.

Limiting hunters to just 3 days a week greatly reduces economic opportunity for those businesses that depend on out of state residents. Out-of-state hunters provide revenue for gas stations, outfitters, lodging establishments, restaurants, and guides to name a few.

If Kansas wants to be a destination for hunters, why would we restrict waterfowl hunting for out-of-state hunters to only three days a week?

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to HB 2268.

Respectfully submitted,

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