

# Swender

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March 16, 2025

The Honorable Ken Rahjes,  
Chairperson House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
300 SW 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Representative, Rahjes and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 2268 by House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

## Overview:

- Please accept this communication as my sincere opposition to House Bill 2268. I was born and raised in Kansas and have enjoyed the pleasures of Kansas outdoors my entire life; my wife and all three children were born in Kansas as well. I personally hold a Kansas Lifetime Huntin/Fishing License with issuance number 806, which I purchased in 1986. Over the years I have lived in Kansas (42 years), Texas (15 years), and Oklahoma (7 years) where I currently reside with my wife—we are both Kansas KPERS retirees.

## Concern for HB 2268:

- Adverse effects for nonresidents of Kansas and family members of Kansas residents who enjoy hunting. However, because of this proposed Act under consideration nonresident hunters are banned from holiday hunting with family who *do not* hold a valid lifetime Kansas License. Often the “out of state” hunter lives closer to the hunt location than the native Kansans. This is certainly the case for my family. I personally live closer to Neosho County Wildlife Refuge than my two sons and son-in-law. I respectfully suggest to the committee that areas like neighboring communities close to state lines, e.g., Missouri & Oklahoma is a norm and not an exception. This contiguous state boundary is similar in western Kansas, too. Citizens living in the Panhandle of Oklahoma and Texas where I also have lived frequent Garden City, Kansas, and surrounding communities for various commerce/trade/hunting. The proposed Bill clearly reads now that “I” can continue to hunt Kansas seven days a week but could not bring an additional family member or friend who resides out of state to hunt on the prohibited days of the week—Sunday, Monday & Tuesday.

## Unintended Individual Consequences:

- Should HB 2268 be advanced out of committee the message could be perceived that synergies currently enjoyed by Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas have diminished. Are the prohibitions causing perceptions of unintended discriminatory acts toward citizens of neighboring states like Oklahoma,

Missouri, and Texas, as well as those who live in other states who frequent Kansas?

**Possible Slippery Slope of Unintended Political Consequences:**

- Other states could collectively collaborate to reciprocate the prohibition like HB2268 to limit "Kansans" to only hunt four days a week in their respective state.
- Currently Kansas, Texas, and Oklahoma enjoy a universal cooperative for travel which include PikePass for Oklahoma and Kansas' KTAG. Could a disgruntled Oklahoma Legislator in the future propose higher fees for travel of a "Kansas" vehicle?
- Should the passage of HB2268 move out of committee what additional outdoor wildlife season restrictions could follow in the future. Upland game four days a week, etc.
- Will future Acts, addendums or revision be made to further restrict those who hold lifetime license but do not reside in Kansas.

**Summary:** Please consider the positives of out-of-state hunting and navigate away from access restrictions of nonresident hunting. Kansas serves as a major/central flyway for migratory waterfowl and has been a leader in promoting youth outdoor sports and activities for decades. If there is fiscal concern, then solve it with more volume of activity. If there is an access concern, consider opening more accessible areas or even fee-based hunting so that one can continue to enjoy migratory waterfowl hunting in Kansas!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Swender', with a large, stylized initial 'H' and a long, sweeping underline.

Herbert J. Swender, Sr