

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

STATE CAPITOL
300 S.W. TENTH AVENUE
TOPEKA, KS 66612
(785) 296-7483
shawn.chauncey@house.ks.gov



DISTRICT ADDRESS
2728 SAMANTHA DRIVE
JUNCTION CITY, KS 67441
(785) 761-7527
shawn.chauncey@gmail.com

SHAWN CHAUNCEY
65TH DISTRICT

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2547

Kansas House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **House Bill 2547**.

I appear today as a proponent because this legislation is an important investment not only in wildlife conservation, but in the future of outdoor recreation and youth participation in Kansas.

Investing in the Next Generation

One of the greatest challenges facing hunting and conservation today is declining youth participation. If we want strong traditions, strong conservation funding, and responsible land stewardship in the future, we must engage young people now.

HB 2547 helps do exactly that.

By strengthening upland bird populations and habitat, this bill supports:

- Youth hunting seasons
- Mentorship programs
- Family hunting opportunities
- Hunter education participation

When young Kansans have real opportunities to see birds, harvest game, and experience success in the field, they are far more likely to remain lifelong sportsmen and conservationists.

Supporting Youth Seasons and Access

Kansas has made meaningful efforts to expand youth seasons and special youth opportunities. However, those seasons are only successful if there are healthy wildlife populations.

HB 2547 provides a dedicated funding source to improve upland bird numbers, which directly benefits youth hunters who often have limited time, limited access, and fewer chances to participate.

Better bird populations mean:

- Higher success rates for youth hunters
- More positive first experiences
- Greater retention of young participants
- Increased family involvement

This bill helps ensure youth seasons remain meaningful and accessible.

Conservation Through Participation

Hunters have always been leaders in conservation. Many of us learned that responsibility from parents, grandparents, coaches, and mentors.

By connecting conservation funding directly to upland hunting, HB 2547 teaches young people an important lesson: that enjoying natural resources comes with a responsibility to protect them.

This is how conservation ethics are passed from one generation to the next.

Fair and Responsible Funding

HB 2547 establishes a reasonable upland game bird stamp while maintaining an exemption for private land. This approach respects landowners, focuses on users, and ensures funds are reinvested where they matter most.

It is a model that has worked successfully in other conservation programs.

Strengthening Communities and Families

Youth and family hunting opportunities strengthen rural communities, support small businesses, and keep Kansas traditions alive.

When families travel for youth seasons and mentored hunts, they support local lodging, restaurants, and retailers. This bill helps sustain that economic activity.

Conclusion

House Bill 2547 is about more than stamps and funding. It is about:

- Protecting wildlife
- Expanding youth opportunity
- Preserving traditions
- Investing in the future

By supporting HB 2547, the Legislature is sending a clear message that Kansas values its young people, its outdoor heritage, and responsible conservation.

I respectfully urge the committee to support House Bill 2547.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to stand for questions.

Shawn Chauncey

Representative 65th District

2728 Samantha Drive

Junction City, KS 66441

(785) 761-7527