

Thank you Mr. Chair:

I am currently the chair of Joint Administrative Rules and Regulations and I want to speak against HB 2279 allowing Parks and Wildlife to be exempt from providing Economic Impact Statements due to being unable to estimate impact. I have one example to today to show you why this is wrong. When Wildlife and Parks wanted to cancel deer season their response was that there was zero impact on citizens or locations. This not simply not true. You have an idea of how many people will not be buying a license? Tourism will tell you the average amount a hunter will spend traveling around the state spending on gas, hotels, restaurants and hunting lodges.

The idea they can't do it is wrong. Travel and Tourism makes these estimates daily as well as any economic development group. There is no need for precise numbers on these documents. Exempting one agency will cause others to ask for an exemption and the reason we passed a bill requiring such statements and it is found in KSA 77-416. Prior to this statute NO agencies did them and as I said, Wildlife and Parks is a prime example.