

From: [Zach Wilson](#)
To: [Tom Kessler](#); [House Fed-State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB2423 Use of Thermal Drones in Wildlife Recovery
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026 11:00:49 AM

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Mr. Kessler and Members of the House Committee,

My name is Zachary Wilson, and I own and operate County Line Ag Services LLC near Turon, Kansas. I am a licensed seed dealer and an FAA Part 107–certified UAV pilot, operating a custom aerial application business utilizing spray drones.

Outside of my professional work, I am a passionate outdoorsman and an avid archer. I strongly support archery hunting as a primary and ethical method for harvesting whitetail deer. Archery is an effective and humane practice; however, as with any method, factors such as shot placement and environmental conditions can occasionally result in prolonged tracking and delayed recovery of wounded animals.

The use of thermal-equipped drones would be a significant advancement in improving the successful recovery of wounded deer and other game. These aircraft are subject to strict FAA regulations, including the requirement for a Part 107 license and applicable exemptions. As a result, they would not be widely accessible to the general hunting public, which helps mitigate concerns regarding misuse. Licensed and experienced operators, such as myself, could responsibly offer these services statewide to assist fellow sportsmen.

Additionally, with the number of out-of-state hunters who travel to Kansas each year, the availability of these services would further support local economies by encouraging lawful hunting-related expenditures within our communities. The cost of this technology also serves as a deterrent to misuse and poaching.

Thermal drones are already legal and successfully utilized for wildlife recovery in several other states, and I have professional colleagues who can attest to their effectiveness and responsible use. I believe this legislation presents a clear benefit to Kansas outdoorsmen and landowners, with no adverse impact on law-abiding citizens.

If I can provide any additional information or assistance regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,
Zachary Wilson
County Line Ag Services LLC
Turon, Kansas