

KANSAS OUTDOOR HERITAGE ALLIANCE

To: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs, Rep. Tom Kessler, Chair

From: Kurt Ratzlaff on behalf of Kansas Outdoor Heritage Alliance

Date: February 4, 2026

RE: HB 2507 Increasing the Fee Cap for the State Waterfowl Stamp

Chairman Kessler and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2507.

The Kansas Outdoor Heritage Alliance (KOHA) recently came together to provide the Kansas legislature with the voice of Kansas hunters, anglers, trappers and houndsmen. We represent the interests of the everyday sportsmen and women out there walking in a field behind a bird dog, the angler sitting on the bank or in a small boat trying to catch a few fish to fry up, the trapper checking the line every day and the houndsmen listening to hear a dog sound off on a racoon. KOHA represents those of us who are not looking to make money off the outdoors, but do invest our passion, time, money, and effort. We are the backbone of the financial support of the outdoors and its conservation.

The following members of the Kansas Outdoor Heritage Alliance support HB 2507:

Delta Waterfowl

Kansas Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Kansas Bowhunters Association

Kansas Federation of Houndsmen

Kansas Fur Harvesters Association

Kansas Hunters For Access

Kansas Walleye Association

HB 2507 makes great financial sense for the state of Kansas. Like nearly all other hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and tags in Kansas, the fee caps need to be raised to adequately fund the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). The current \$8 annual waterfowl stamp is

woefully out of date when compared to our neighboring states. The increase proposed in this bill will not significantly impact the number of hunters who pursue waterfowl, as it falls well within the norms of other states. Additionally, this bill raises the fee CAP, and does not set the current fee to be charged. The actual fee to be charged at this time (set by the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission) is expected to be lower than the proposed cap.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is primarily a fee-funded agency and therefor having adequate funding from the licenses, tags and stamps it sells is crucial to its ability to manage the wildlife of Kansas and all the other jobs required of it by law. It would be far more efficient to consider raising all the fee caps at the same time, but for some reason, this does not happen in Kansas. Oklahoma recently revised its entire fee cap schedule successfully, but that seems to be elusive in Kansas.

Passage of HB 2507 would allow KDWP to charge a competitive fee for the state waterfowl stamp, and create needed funding to improve KDWP's abilities for the wildlife and sportsmen of Kansas. We ask this Committee to support and pass HB 2507 and raise the fee cap for the state waterfowl stamp.

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