



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
KANSAS

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Senator Virgil Peck, Chair

From: Marshal Loftus, Chair, Kansas Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Date: February 12, 2025

Re: SB 213 Prohibiting nonresidents from hunting migratory waterfowl during certain times and places and lowering fees for migratory waterfowl habitat stamps.

Chairman Peck and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony to SB 213. Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) is known as the sportsmen's voice for our public lands, waters and wildlife. The Kansas Chapter of BHA seeks to ensure our outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting through education and hard work. We perform numerous service projects every year to improve our publicly owned lands, and to increase opportunities to hunting and fishing access in any way we can.

SB 213 is based on a proposed regulation that was approved by our wildlife commission. They spent years developing a workable solution that involved staff, citizens, and other stakeholders. This a real problem and some group of people will be disappointed regardless of the outcome of this bill. It is hard problem that needs a hard answer.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is the most successful model of wildlife management in the world. The wildlife commission serves an integral role in upholding the principles outlined by this model. The regulation approved by the commission regarding nonresident waterfowl hunting was a difficult decision, but it was thoughtfully developed. The Commission was appointed to make decisions like this in a thoughtful manner, considering the stakeholders and the resources at stake.

Kansas BHA is taking a neutral position on this bill. The law that is requested in this bill is exactly the regulation that was passed by our wildlife commission. We believe the process of passing this regulation, and others like it should not include the members of this committee, but this case is a unique circumstance. Therefore, we do not specifically oppose SB 213.

Legislation passed in 2024 requires the economic impact the regulations to be determined prior to passage. This legislation has brought the ability of our wildlife commission to properly manage our resources to a complete halt. Wildlife management is most successful when done by wildlife professionals. We generally do not want to see wildlife regulations passed via the legislature, but due to a unique set of legal circumstances in Kansas, we do not oppose passing legislation that is based directly on a regulation that has been thoroughly vetted by our wildlife commission.

The Kansas Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers is officially taking a neutral position on SB 213.

