

Thank you Chairman Powell and the committee for allowing me to present testimony today on HB2295. I know many of you probably think we talk about this year after year and I'm sorry if you feel I am wasting your time. I ask you to bear with me again today as again come to this committee for help. My constituents are seeing more and more deer and keep asking what's being done to control them. Plus, two of my family members had deer/car accidents again last year. Plus several more have lost their lives to deer/motorcycle in and around Wichita, plus severe injuries in both car and cycles in our area.

This bill was presented last year and after several discussions, was assigned to a sub committee. It was agreed by all parties to hold doing anything legislatively to allow Wild Life and Parks to develop a new plan under the new Secretary. The charge was to work within the department to implement some sort of new plan to control the increasing population of deer at their discretion. I know they worked hard having meetings around the state, but I believe they were more targeted at hunters input rather than addressing the number of accidents and crop damage. I attended one of those meetings and understand the pressure they are under from the hunters. The bow hunters were against the rifle, the muzzle loaders against the rifle and bow and so on. Then the focus was turned to the farmers not letting them hunt. I was afraid to mention that I was a farmer and didn't want them to turn on me. I have an appreciation for what Lloyd Fox goes through to balance these groups.

So with that in mind, I come to you today to consider several options that after conversations with many legislators and constituents would like you to consider and allow Wild Life and Parks to hopefully implement without legislative bills to force them to do something. I have over 70 signatures from legislators that would like to see some sort of plan to reduce the numbers, or are willing to support legislation that would direct Wild Life and Parks to do so.

They are simple and to the point.

- Allow crossbows during the bow season.
- Extend the antlerless deer hunting season to allow three weekend total in January in certain Units
- To add \$17.50 (the fee for an in state doe tag) to the out state permits to allow them to take a doe in addition to a buck.

These are very simple way to promote more hunting licenses, while also increasing revenue for Wild Life and Parks. By simply adding \$17.50 to the outstate tags, I don't believe we would lose one hunter from not coming to Kansas. With over 30,000 nonresident permits, that might raise enough money so we don't have to charge out older hunters fees, or supplement their fees so Wild Life and Parks could get federal matching money. I and many other legislators believe this will help decrease the deer accidents, promote more hunting, and take the heat of Wild Life and Parks to make the hunters happy, a win win for everyone.

Thank you and I stand for questions,

Rep Joe Seiwert