

TESTIMONY FOR HB 2709
HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MARCH 1, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to bring this bill before you today. HB 2709 places a higher price on those who choose to poach deer for the purpose of getting that trophy rack! The bill places fines by the size of the antlers and comes before us as a result of the high price poaching has on landowners and private lives.

Beau Arndt was a promising young man who loved the outdoors. He loved wildlife and he loved hunting. He was enjoying all those things the morning he was shot and killed because of a thoughtless, careless act of an individual who chose to break the rules by shooting from the road recklessly. The price of this act has been enormous on friends and family.

Beau's death has permanently changed the lives of many. Since his death, the interest by those who hunt lawfully to penalize those who do not has risen exponentially. Poaching and hunting in an illegal manner puts others at risk and makes life harder for those who hunt by the rules.

You have compelling information before you on why this bill needs to pass and you have interested individuals from across the State who want to put higher fines to discourage poachers. Thank you again for giving this bill a fair hearing and I will stand for questions.

Peggy Mast