

House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee
Concerning HB 2709
March 1, 2012

Dear Committee Members,

On December 15, 2007, a tragic incident occurred that impacted me greatly. My son, Beau Arndt, was shot and killed. Beau was hunting legally, with permission from a nearby land-owner. He was with his friends, waiting in the early morning light for a flock of geese to descend. Beau loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and sharing that love with others. Even at a very young age, Beau never feared anything outdoors. Ironically, that is where he died. Three days before his 19th birthday.

The person who shot Beau did so from the roadway. He, his brother, and another passenger were driving the Kansas roadways. The shooter stopped his pickup, pulled a rifle from the interior, and from the roadway and out the window, shot onto another person's property without permission. The bullet struck Beau, killing him instantly. The shooter and his passengers drove away.

After apprehension and a trial, the shooter went to prison for thirty two months. The shooter's brother, the person riding in the pickup that tragic day, was in attendance during the week-long trial.

Jump forward four years later to February, 2012. The brother of the shooter who killed Beau, was arrested in Topeka, Kansas for poaching. Once again an act committed illegally, without permission and unethically. Penalties and fines must be implemented that are strong enough and be published enough so that even the most brazen will understand that the consequences are too high. A message needs to be delivered to the offenders that the law-abiding citizens of Kansas have had enough. Those who poach, commit unethical and illegal acts against nature, wildlife and other people need to have stiffer penalties and fines assessed against them. HB 2709 delivers such a message to the offenders.

The passage of HB 2709 will help restore the roadways and countryside of Kansas so all people can enjoy the outdoors. The passage of HB 2709 will allow our younger generations to learn what our forefathers took for granted, that hunting and shooting can be safe and will instill confidence. The passage of HB 2709 will help prevent another tragedy.

I, Bob Arndt, fully support HB 2709 and encourage you to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration,
Bob Arndt
Americus, Kansas
Proud Father of Beau Arndt