

**Testimony on HB 2336 regarding Law Enforcement Wildlife Decoys
To
The House Committee on Agriculture**

**By Brad Loveless
Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism**

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HB 2336 would create the crime of unlawfully taking a wildlife-simulated device being used by a law enforcement officer for the purpose of enforcing the wildlife laws of this state. **The Department supports the provisions contained in the bill.** The act would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

Wildlife-simulated devices, commonly referred to as decoys, have been used for many years to combat illegal poaching activity and to protect landowners and their property. Though used sparingly by the Department, these devices – which are often deployed at the request of landowners – can be a highly-effective tool in areas where illegal road hunting activity occurs regularly.

Concerns have been raised by some individuals that prosecution may be avoided because wildlife-simulated devices do not meet the statutory definition of wildlife; thus, the genesis of this bill. This bill would be a step in the right direction toward protecting the wildlife and landowners of Kansas.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify and requests favorable consideration of the bill.