



Since 1894

To: House Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Kyle Hoffman, Chairman

From: Tucker A. Stewart, Associate Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **HB 2207 Hunting on private land by written permission only**

Date: February 15, 2017

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing nearly 5,200 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock; cow-calf and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) is opposed to HB 2207 which would require written permission when pursuing wounded game on property the hunter is not authorized to hunt, among a number of other changes. However, KLA would be supportive of the bill if it were amended to only require permission, rather than written permission when pursuing wounded game and remove all the other alterations to current law proposed under the current bill.

KLA members met yesterday at KLA's annual legislative meeting. During that meeting, the KLA Board of Directors directed KLA staff to support requiring permission when pursuing wounded game. KLA has long standing policy that protect private property rights.

Members highlighted issues with hunters utilizing current law to gain unauthorized access to property under the guise of pursuing wounded game. While KLA understands this could pose as an inconvenience to hunters, however, without requiring permission, private property rights could continue to be undermined. Also, under KLA's suggestion a quick phone call would suffice to obtain permission.

KLA requests that the committee adopt an amendment to require permission rather than written permission when pursuing wounded game. KLA remains opposed to the other changes under this bill.