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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**KEN CORBET**  
54TH DISTRICT

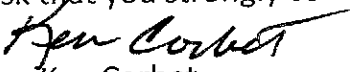
Chairman Tarwater and members of the House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee:

Today I would like to discuss with you an issue that could significantly boost the economy of rural Kansas, transferable deer permits. Kansas has some of the best hunting in the country and it is one of our leading tourist attractions. With that said, there is significant room for improvement.

There are over 43 million acres of farm and ranch land in Kansas. Many private landowners are not willing to open up their lands to public hunting due to potential risks. These closed off lands hold a thriving deer population. HB 2167 would give landowners the ability to transfer land owner deer permits to non-Kansas residents. This would encourage land owners to open up their lands to hunting by giving the land owner the ability to make a profit by selling the deer permit to an out of state hunter who would then hunt on that landowners property.

There is much talk these days about rural revitalization. The Kansas deer population is a valuable natural resource that is underutilized. By allowing transferable deer permits, our rural areas would see an influx of out of state hunters. Not only would rural land owners make a profit by selling their permits, our rural communities would also benefit. Every out of state hunter who visits Kansas puts money into local restaurants, motels, bed & breakfasts, convenience stores, and other local businesses. This is a simple thing that can be done to help our rural communities. There are mechanisms in place in HB 2167 that would prevent the transfer system from placing a fiscal burden on the state.

I ask that you strongly consider passing HB 2167 out of committee.

  
Rep. Ken Corbet  
District 54

Feb 19, 2019

## **Kansas Rural Revitalization**

### **HB 2167—Transferable Landowner Deer Permits:**

1: Doesn't establish a new or different hunting license.

2: KDWPT has testified that this transferable tag will have NO negative effect on the Kansas deer population.

3: This will open up access to thousands of private acres for hunters to enjoy.

4: Any transfer shall not occur until all nonresident hunting permits issued have been filled in each management unit where the regular landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permit was issued for the applicable white-tailed deer season. (Note: transfers will be limited to nonresidents.)

5: This will allow farmers and ranchers to help recover crop depravation, but more importantly, it will promote rural revitalization to all 105 counties. More tourism will benefit local restaurants, motels, and convenience stores.

- The last 3 years there has been about 4500 out of State deer hunters who could not get a tag. 4500 tags at \$550 each would have brought **\$2,475,000\*** to the KDWPT.

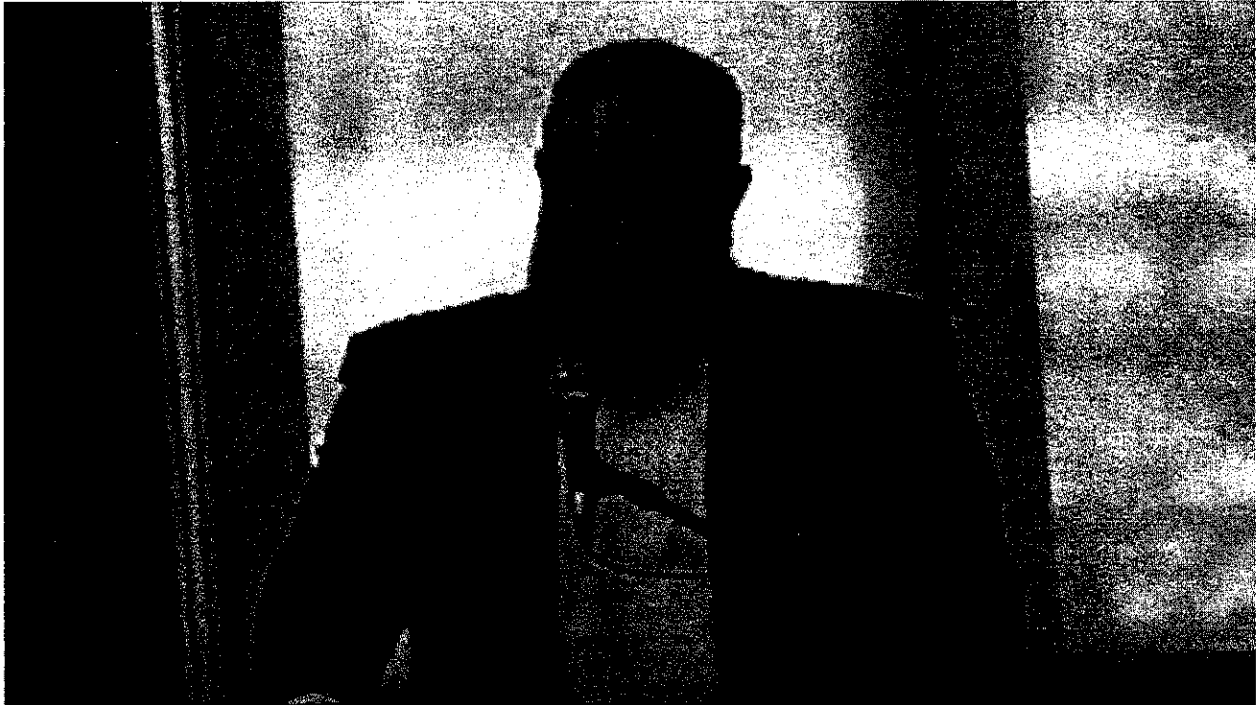
- The National Shooting Sports Foundation says that every out-of-state hunter will spend about \$1200 for gas, meals, shopping lodging, etc. while in Kansas. So the 4500 hunters who were turned away kept about **\$4,950,000.00\*** out of the rural Kansas economy.

\*2.475 million + 5.4 million means it has been a **\$7.9 million dollar loss** to the Kansas economy.

- These deer permits already exist. The only change is that Kansas farmers and ranchers will be able to not use their tag but transfer it to an out-of-state deer hunter.

- Maybe by fixing this and passing this rural revitalization bill, it may allow one more generation to remain in Rural Kansas.

Chris Tymeson, Chief Counsel for Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, testifying to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations, March 5, 2018



**“Well, I don’t think that deer transferable permits will do anything to adjust the deer population.”**