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House of Representatives

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Steven C. Johnson
Representative, 108th District

Date: March 13, 2019

RE: Proponent Testimony for **HB 2167**

Thank you Chairman Kerschen and members of the Senate Agriculture committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you as a proponent of **HB 2167**. My home is along the wooded banks of the Smoky Hill river in central Kansas. It is a popular area for wildlife and sportsmen and women.

For the most part, I am free to manage my land. There are many decisions about crops, inputs, managing pests and whether to participate in irrigation or oil exploration. I know I don't own the wildlife on my land.

As a property owner, I would expect to have a say in who is able to hunt on my land among other property rights. Neighbors can and do ask permission. Some have arranged formal agreements to hunt. Others approach it on a more ad hoc basis.

There are occasions where friends from out of state have inquired about hunting. I would like to be able to accommodate them with certainty rather than directing them to the lottery of the state.

The House Commerce committee worked hard to limit these permits in response to concerns from when some outfitters worked to benefit from the system of transferrable permits in the past. Limiting the permits to one per landowner and having a sunset to review how the program worked I think provides a chance to measure the impact and benefits of the program.

I understand controlling the deer population and limiting the number of permits. I believe this can still be achieved by limiting the total number of out of state and transferrable permits issued.

Across the state, we want to grow business. Policies that limit areas of tourism and related spending seem contrary to that. For those businesses the lottery-only method of distributing permits limits not only their business, but many related purchases their customers make in our communities.

Thank you again for your consideration of this issue and I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time,