

HB-2167 AN ACT CONCERNING WILDLIFE; RELATING TO THE TRANSFERABILITY OF DEER PERMITS
Testimony of Lauren A. Sill

I am submitting my objection to HB2167 and am respectfully asking you to *please* reject this bill.

The proposed transferable permit system has several serious flaws. 1) It disregards differences across the state in the age, gender, and size of our deer herds. This system could potentially damage the quality of deer herds in some areas of the state to such a degree that, in a short period of time, non-residents won't want to come and hunt because there are too few quality animals remaining. 2) The transferable permit system also carries an underlying philosophy that wildlife belong to the landowner and therefore the landowner should be able to treat them as a commodity. As a Kansas resident and landowner, I stand firmly behind the historical position in this state that the resources of this state belong to all residents equally. 3) The bill is also discriminatory against Kansas residents in that it is giving preference to non-residents who already have a significant proportion of deer permits in the state. I resent the resources of my state being transferred to non-residents for the economic benefit of a few. 4) This is an administrative and law enforcement nightmare for KDWP that is open to fraud and abuse, the very reasons that transferable permits were discontinued during their first tenure.

This bill has been promoted as a means of economic development but that is a skewed perspective. I am offended by the inferences by promoters of this bill that I and other resident hunters don't spend the dollars that non-residents spend to hunt. The difference is that my hunting dollars are spent at sporting goods stores, at specialty stores (guns, ammo, bow, equipment, etc.), at gas stations, at convenience stores, at restaurants, and for licenses and permits throughout the year, year after year. Non-residents don't buy their guns, equipment, clothing, or most of their ammo in Kansas. They buy it at home and bring it with them. While they might spend on lodging and access, these dollars often go directly to the hands of a limited number of individual landowners, outfitters and guides. Non-resident hunters do not contribute to sustained economic impact across a wide spectrum of businesses in the important way that residents do.

This bill will have multiple negative consequences including:

- Impeding KDWP's ability to manage the quantity and quality of deer in Kansas.
 - The number of these transferable permits to be sold is not limited and is unknown.
 - These permits will be used to hunt bucks, not antlerless deer which are the key to population control.
- Creating additional challenges for resident hunters (upland, waterfowl, deer, and furbearer) in finding access to hunting opportunities.
 - Land leases for use by non-residents for deer has taken millions of acres of access away from all Kansas hunters.
- Further increasing the number of non-resident deer hunters in Kansas.
 - Kansas already has the highest ratio of non-resident:resident hunters in the entire nation (1/4 or nearly 25%).
- Contributing to the declining numbers of resident hunters.
 - This means fewer dollars spent by Kansans in Kansas for licenses, firearms, bows, ammo, hunting clothing and equipment all year long and for extra food, fuel, and services during the hunting seasons.
 - Resident hunters are the ones who hunt antlerless deer which is the primary means of reducing excess numbers of deer and decreased deer/vehicle accidents.

- Transferable permits in Kansas have historically been accompanied by increased violations, poaching, and fraud in obtaining permits.
 - Personally, I am already very tired of the number of non-resident hunters that trespass on my land, cause damage to my fences, poach, and help themselves to the limited land that I own.
- 97% of non-resident deer hunters who applied for permits for the 2018-19 hunting season successfully obtained them. Less than 250 non-residents were unsuccessful in the permit draw for this past season.
- Landowners have and always have had the right and opportunity to charge for access or lease their land for hunting access and are free to develop this revenue source with their land. Rejecting this bill will in no way limit their ability to promote their land and benefit from deer hunting.

This bill is unnecessary legislation which may provide substantial gain for a very small number of individuals while negatively impacting many individuals like myself. Please, please reject HB2167.