

**Testimony on HB 2025 on Restricting Activities of Law Enforcement Officers
To
The House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**By Greg Kyser
Acting Law Enforcement Director
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism**

February 4, 2021

HB 2025 pertains to restricting otherwise lawful activities of law enforcement officers, particularly those employed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. **The Department opposes the provisions contained in the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

HB 2025 proposes two new sections of law. The first section would essentially prohibit KDWP law enforcement officers from surveilling private property, both physically and electronically, without a search warrant. The second section would prohibit all law enforcement agencies within the state from entering a formal or informal agreement with the owner/operator of a utility pole to install or conduct physical or electronic surveillance.

The Department opposes the provisions contained in the bill and requests the committee consider the unintended impacts of the bill. The bill will likely result in significant impacts to the operations of the Department as well as jeopardize officer safety. Furthermore, the bill creates a significant disparity between law enforcement agencies that have the ability to enforce wildlife violations with consequences impacting both the courts and the individuals out in the field. The bill could potentially inhibit Department law enforcement officers from aiding and assisting other state law enforcement agencies enforce non-wildlife crimes. The bill also weakens the North American Model of Conservation by taking away the ability to enforce the provisions of conservation law. And finally, it jeopardizes the ability of the Department to provide protections for the very individuals that the bill purports to protect.

The Department appreciates the support of the Committee in opposing HB 2025 and the opportunity to address the Committee.