



Kansas Cervid Breeders Association

Date: February 2, 2015
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Senator Garrett Love, Chairman
From: Travis Lowe, Kansas Cervid Breeders Association
Re: Support of SB 46

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Travis Lowe appearing on behalf of the Kansas Cervid Breeders Association. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 46.

The Kansas Cervid Breeders Association (KCBA) represents the elk and deer ranchers in the state. Elk and deer are part of the cervid species, which include all members of the deer family. Since the early 1980's, domestic elk and deer have been raised across the state that cater to several markets. There are eight different deer species raised by our members with elk as the most common. The Kansas cervid industry contributes to the nation's \$4 billion dollar industry.

SB 46 is an animal health bill introduced by the Kansas Department of Agriculture that addresses identification requirements for domestic deer. Domestic deer applies to privately owned deer and elk. Domestic deer have been regulated by the Kansas Department of Agriculture since 1995.

The changes made in the bill will simply clarify tagging requirements for our industry. The proposed language will require official identification for any deer or elk that enter or leave our ranches, except when moved directly to a licensed slaughter facility. Consistent with any livestock industry, our ranchers buy and sell elk and deer for many purposes. The intent of the legislation is for the animals to have identification when there is a change in possession.

The department provides elk and deer owners with a document known as a movement form to note animals arriving and leaving our facilities. Every elk or deer ranch is required by law to be licensed by the department.

Kansas has a good regulatory climate for our industry. This is a growing alternative livestock industry. On behalf of the association and its membership, we thank you for your continued support of our industry and private property rights.

The KCBA respectfully asks the committee to advance SB 46 in its current form. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this matter.