

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 1:30 P.M. on March 6, 2007 in Room 235-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Carl Holmes- excused
Clay Aurand- excused
Sharon Schwartz- excused
Vaughn Flora- excused

Committee staff present:

Julian Efrid, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mike Corrigan, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Lura Attig, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ray Merrick - Representative, 27th District
Tony DeRossett - State Director, Farmers Help Feed the Hungry
Ronald W. Robinson - Columbia Avenue Church of Christ Food Pantry
Kim Douglas - Mid-Kansas Community Action Program, Inc.
Chris Tymeson - Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on: **HB 2498 - Resident and nonresident deer permit fees increased by \$1, increase goes to the feed the hungry fund.**

Ray Merrick, Representative, 27th District, spoke as a proponent of this bill (Attachment 1). Rep. Merrick supported a similar bill in 2001 and is in full support of this bill.

Tony DeRossett, proponent, explained how the average deer can generate 50 pounds of meat, if ground into quarter-pound portions, would equal 200 portions. In this manner, 592 deer could equal 115,000 quarter-pound meals (Attachment 2). Some Kansas farmers experience significant crop loss due to deer grazing. In a small way, this program will alleviate part of that damage.

Ronald W. Robinson, a proponent of this bill, is the coordinator of the Columbia Avenue Church of Christ Food Pantry in Newton, Kansas (no written testimony was submitted). Mr. Robinson related the fact that families receiving food from them receive only two cans of either tuna or chicken per week and that is the only protein they have in their diet. For the most part, they are very happy to receive the venison to increase the nutrition in their diets.

Kim Douglas, Community Service Coordinator, Mid-Kansas Community Action Program, Inc. Mrs. Douglas is a strong proponent of **HB 2498** (Attachment 3). This program is focused on helping low-income individuals & families with emergency assistance with utilities, housing, food, and much more.

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Wildlife and Parks. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is opposed to this bill (Attachment 4). Charging one additional dollar to those who buy a deer permit is placing the burden on a very small portion of society.

Chairman Powell closed the hearing on **HB 2498** at 2:45 P.M..

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE 27TH DISTRICT
6874 WEST 164TH TERR.
STILWELL, KANSAS 66085

STATE CAPITOL— 381-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7662
1-800-432-3924



RAY MERRICK
MAJORITY LEADER

March 6, 2007

To: Members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Re: HB 2498

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry have been helping fellow Kansans since enabling legislation was enacted in 2001. In the six years since FHFH have been active in Kansas, hundreds of thousands have been fed and the state has seen a consistent decline in deer/auto accidents. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has supported FHFH with publicity but has not been a financial backer because of departmental budget cuts. For the past two years, the KDWP has been working with FHFH to find a funding source for this exceptional organization. FHFH services our states most vulnerable with resources that are often discarded.

One deer provides enough meat to feed as many as 200 men, women and children. In Johnson County alone, 33 deer, 1 elk and 2 bison were donated, feeding roughly 7,500 meals. FHFH has over forty receiving organizations across the state that disperse the meat to the impoverished. Last year, FHFH fed 130,000 people across the state. The numbers speak for themselves.

I sponsored enabling legislation for Farmer and Hunters Feeding the Hungry in 2001 and continue to stand behind this organization today. Maryland recently enacted legislation directing a dollar from the sale of each license be used to provide donated venison to the needy through programs like FHFH. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is supportive of a similar measure here. The Kansas Insurance Commissioner and five of the ten largest insurance providers in Kansas have met with FHFH and expressed their support. Five of those insurance groups have donated financial support and also support further legislation enabling FHFH. 130,000 hungry Kansans received meals this year because of the efforts of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. The extra dollar added to the price of deer permits will more than make itself up. The value of serving a brother in need far outweighs the fiscal impact of this bill. I urge your support of HB 2498.

House Agriculture & Natural
Resources Budget Committee
Date **03-06-07**
Attachment # **1**

Hi my name is Tony DeRossett.

In 2001, my self and 3 RC &D members started FHFH.

What FHFH is & does.

Reduce, auto, crop damage, manage deer, feed

History: 2001 very excited \$350, 12 lockers, 180 deer,

Luckily anonymous \$10,000

2002 Better grasp ADD MORE, 418 deer

\$10,000 in RED

2003 IN THE HOLE to start ADDED restrictions

217 deer everything OK

ADD(9)Attica, Bronson, Yates Center,

Erie, Halstead, Arma, Goddard, Mulvane,

El Dorado,

2004 BACK ON OUR FEET

growth. \$2 license (\$15,000) 432 deer

ADD (8) Washington, Kinsley, Larned,

Topeka, McPherson, DeSoto, Yoder,

Hillsboro

2005 Going good.

ADD (7) Alta Vista, Mound City, Herrington,

Oswego, Overbrook, Spring Hill, Neodesha

raise \$40,000 25K license only \$100 off

543 deer 39 lockers

2006 planning growth, small steps lesson 2002

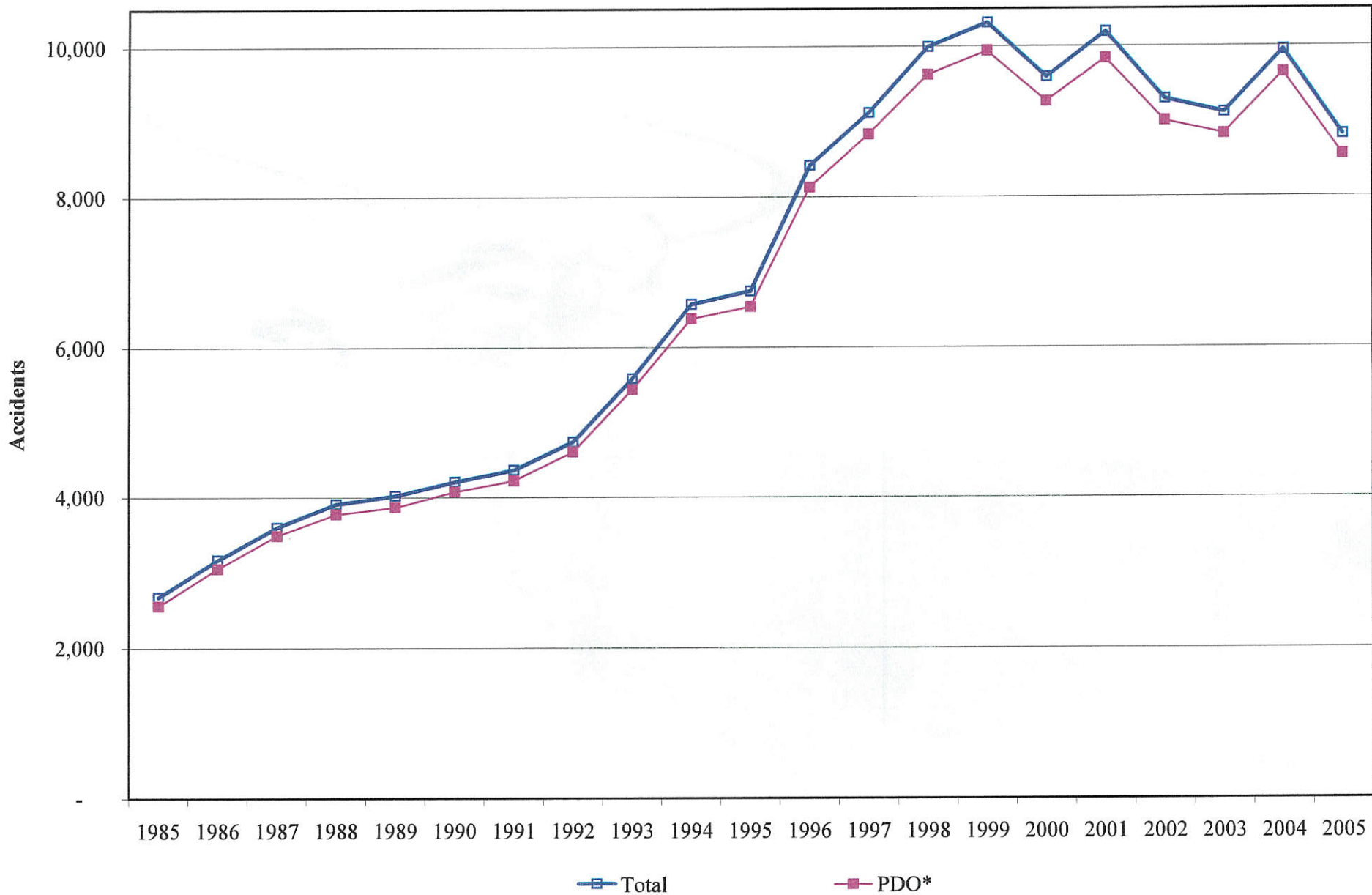
ADD Fowler & Minneola

loss of sponsors due to boredom.

592 deer, 1elk, 2bison, 150k meals

Currently, 3 SUB chapters (Topeka, KC, Mound City)

All Deer Accidents and *Property Damage Only Deer Accidents by Year



Trend Analyses

The KDWP has conducted this survey over a number of years, and was interested in comparing the results of selected items to past results. An item of high interest is trends in deer damage. Figure 1 shows that since 1965, with the exception of around 1975, the percentage indicating deer damage to their property has increased. The data for 1996 and 2000 are essentially the same with about 60% of the landowners claiming some damage from deer.

Figures 2 and 3 represent the rating of deer damage severity among those who indicated deer damage had occurred to property they own or operate for the 1996 and the 2000 survey years, respectively. The largest single percentage (47%) of respondents in 1996 rated deer damage as "light," but the largest single percentage (39%) in 2000 rate deer damage as "moderate." In addition, in 1996 13% rated deer damage as substantial, and this increased to 17% in 2000. Thus, there is a trend of escalating deer damage, albeit, a trend from only two data points in time.

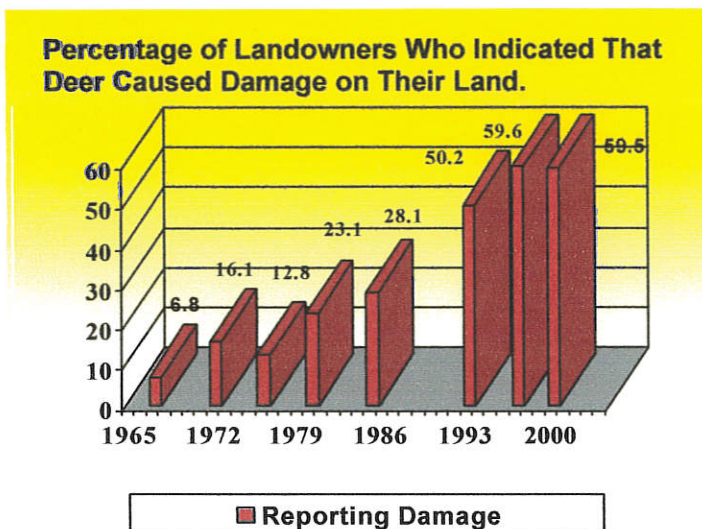


Figure 1.

Landowner's Opinion on the Severity of Crop Damage Caused by Deer, 1996.

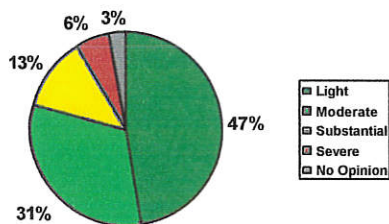


Figure 2

Landowner's Opinion on the Severity of Crop Damage Caused by Deer, 2000.

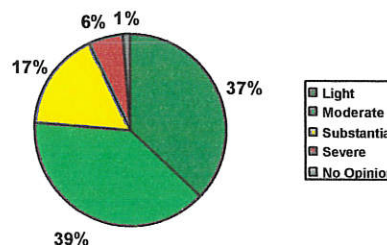


Figure 3

LOCKERS	CONTACT	summer	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Alta Vista	Bruce						10	19
Attica	Roger				23	26	28	17
Beattie	Gary		4		0	5	3	5
Bichelmeyer(KC)	Tony		9		26	9	16	10
Bob's (Washington)"Cindy"	Tony					17	29	19
Bowser (Meriden)	Gary		5		4	10	5	5
Bronson					10 closed	NA	NA	
Burdick	Bruce		9		13	23	10	6
Burkhart(Kinsley)	Dan					21	1elk 37	26
Butcher Block(Larned)	Dan					7	0	
Butcher Block (Mound City)	David						5	13
Cedar Vale	Troy					30	30	30
D&S Meats(YatesCenter)"Denis	Troy				0	40	45	32
El Dorado			31 closed	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Erie Locker "Emily&Jerimy"	Troy				7	22	25	36
First Choice (Herington)	Bruce						4	10
Farview Farms (Topeka)	Brian					5	12	10
Greenwells(Tonganoxie)							0 NA	
Glasco Locker	Marc		0		6	5	11	13
Halls (Sabetha)	Gary		12			18	10	10
Hillsboro Locker			22		20 closed	NA	NA	
Hilltop (Topeka)						1	0 closed	
Krehbiels (McPherson)	Dan					15	42	39
Marks (Lincoln)					closed NA	NA	NA	
Marks (Halstead)	Dan				4	0	1	4
McInteer (Minneola)	Coronado							14
Neodesha Meats	Troy	yes					23	16
Olpe Locker	Bruce		32		11	21	26	27
Oswego Locker	Troy						9	29
Peabody Sausage	Bruce		10		8	13	5	10
Santa Fe Trail Meat(Overbrook)	Rick						8	9
Schoeder's (Arma)	Troy				9	8	9	15
Spring Hill Meat Market	Rick	yes					3	3
Steve's (DeSoto)	Tony	yes				19	24	33d1e2b
Stroot (Goddard)	Roger				14	30	14	30
Stroot (Mulvane)	Roger				9	19	16	17
T & T Processing(Fowler)	Coronado							2
Walker Meats (Hillsboro)						4	2 closed	
Walnut Valley (El Dorado)	Bruce				31	18	14	19
Wecker (Allen)			8		NA	NA	NA	
Wild Thing (Seneca)	Gary		21		9	9	8	9
Winchester Meat	Gary		17		10	20	27	31
Yoder Meats "Susan"	Dan					9	30	24
TOTALS			180	418	217	432	542	592

RECEIVING ORGANIZATIONS

NEK-CAP
Northeast Kansas Community Action Program, Inc.
Atchison, Brown, Jackson, Nemaha, Cos

Sac & Fox Tribal Food Pantry

Potawatomi Tribal Food Pantry

Salvation Army
Atchison, Ks

First Baptist Church
Hiawatha, Ks

First Baptist Church
Troy, Ks

Our Brother's Keeper Food Pantry
Troy, Ks

Help Your Neighbor West Food Pantry
Highland, Ks

Help Your Neighbor East Food Pantry
Elwood, Ks

God's Store House
Meridan, Ks

Food Pantry
Mclouth, Ks

Kansas City Kansas Catholic Charities

Merriam Kansas Catholic Charities

Olathe Chatholic Charities

Concordia Food Bank
Concordia, Ks

Beloit Food Bank
Beloit, Ks

Bridges of Hope
Kansas City, Ks

Mid-CAP Greenwood County

First Baptist Church
El Dorado, Ks

Twelve Baskets Program Christian Fellowship
El Dorado, Ks

Salvation Army
El Dorado, Ks

Community Caring Center
Augusta, Ks

Care and Share
Council Grove, Ks

Main Street Ministries
Hillsboro, Ks

Marion Food Bank
Marion, Ks

Emporia Rescue Mission
Emporia, Ks

Salvation Army
Emporia, Ks

Chase County Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry
Chase County

Anthony Food Bank
Anthony, Ks

Harper Food Bank
Harper, Ks

Kingman Area Food Bank
Kingman, Ks

Kiowa County Food Bank
Greensburg, Ks

Comanche County Health Department and Food Bank
Coldwater, Ks

Pratt Area Food Bank
Pratt, Ks

Barber County Food Bank
Medicine Lodge, Ks

City of Kiowa Food Bank
Kiowa, Ks

Attica Food Bank
Attica, Ks

Mid-America All-Indian Center
Wichita, Ks

Beacon
Fort Scott, Ks

Pittsburg Food Bank
Pittsburg, Ks

Erie Food Bank
Erie, Ks

Yates Center Food Bank
Yates Center, Ks

Fredonia Food Bank
Fredonia, Ks

Bob's Locker Plant
212 Ballard St
Washington, Ks. 66969
785-325-2920

Feb. 28, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

We have been working with F.H.F.H organization for quite a few years and have really appreciated the program. We have a food pantry here in town and sometimes the donations are not adequate enough, so the F.H.F.H. program helps to keep an adequate supply.

Our community depends on the hunting season bringing in money to the local economy. The hunters, especially the out of state hunters, like having a place that will take care of the meat and distribute it to the people that can use it, instead of it going to waste. The past years we have been able to process 30 deer for the food pantry thanks to the F.H.F.H. monetary donation, which amounts to around a 2000 pounds of meat.

After the deer have been processed using F.H.F.H bags we then store the meat here until it is distributed by our local food pantry. The recipients bring in a voucher that says how much they are to get and most are very appreciative of the meat.

I respectfully ask that you recommend this bill that would take a dollar out of every deer tag to help fund this important effort.

Respectfully yours,

Cynthia D. Zabokrtsky
Cynthia Zabokrtsky

Washington County
Ministerial Association
Food Bank
1445 Rainbow Road
Washington Kansas
66968

February 28, 2007

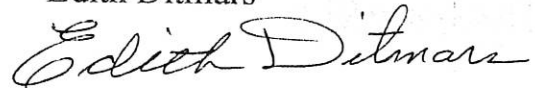
Tony Derossett
17811 Donaho
Tonganoxie, KS 66086

Dear Mr. Derossett,

I just want you to know how much our Food Bank appreciates the great supply of venison we receive from your organization. Meat is one of the more expensive food items to buy and it is still so important in the diet and planning something to eat. Many of the people who come are especially thankful for this meat. When several people get talking it is fun to hear the various ways they joyfully exchange on how they prepare this good meat.

I do hope it will be possible for this wonderful gift to continue. Many many thanks!

Yours truly,
Edith Ditmars



Manager



Mid-Kansas Community Action Program, Inc.

703 N. Main Eureka, Ks. 67045

(620) 583-6860 FAX (620) 583-6860 Toll 1-800-281-6860

Helping People Changing Lives

TESTIMONY FOR F.H.F.H. PROGRAM

1. Information on Mid-Kansas Community Action Program Inc.
 - A. Non-Profit organization focused on helping low-income individuals and families become self-sufficient.
 - B. Programs such as emergency assistance with utilities, housing, food, case management, budgeting, holiday programs, school supplies and many more.
 - C. Funded by Community Service Block Grant (C.S.B.G.), Emergency Food Shelter National Board (E.F.S.N.B.) and local donations.

2. Greenwood County Statistics.
 - A. Kansas County poverty scale, Greenwood 103 out of 105 counties.
 - B. Population (July 2005) - 7,338.
 - C. Disabled 5 years and over – 1,825
 - D. Individuals below poverty level – 934
 - E. Students on free and reduced lunches – 46%
 - F. Individuals on food stamps – 230
 - G. Gross monthly income to qualify for school lunch program and food stamps – \$1,994 - \$2,837.

3. Programs providing food services.
 - A. Community Food Pantry – feeds monthly - 80 – 90 families/160 – 170 individuals.
 - B. Commodities program – feeds monthly – 160 – 168 families/200 – 215 individuals.
 - C. Meat products that are donated to community food pantry consist of canned tuna, chicken and pork, but not donated very often. Those that get commodities may get one to two cans of meat a month. Venison donated by F.H.F.H. is the biggest resource of donated meat given out in the food pantry. It is well accepted by all.

Kim Douglas
Community Service Coordinator
Mid-Kansas Community Action Program Inc.

KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

**Testimony on HB 2498 regarding Mandatory Deer Permit Fees and
the Feed the Hungry Fund**

To

**The House Committee on Appropriations
Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee**

**By Christopher J. Tymeson
Chief Legal Counsel
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

6 March 2007

HB 2498 seeks to amend K.S.A. 32-988 and the provisions of the bill would be effective on publication in the statute book. **The Department opposes the provisions contained in HB 2498.**

HB 2498 would require that the fee for every deer permit, resident and nonresident, would be increased by one dollar and the funds deposited in the Feed the Hungry Fund. The bill would generate approximately \$110,000 for the fund annually.

The Department opposes the provisions contained in the bill for several reasons. First, it is a mandatory fee imposed on members of the public who hunt deer. Currently, the Feed the Hungry Fund is funded through voluntary donations. Second, the Feed the Hungry Fund supports just one organization, the Kansas Chapter of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. There are several benevolent organizations in existence that provide similar programs for feeding the needy and this bill provides funding for just one organization. Third, because this is a mandatory dedicated fee, it reduces future availability of Department fee increases which may be needed to sustain Department operations and programs. And finally, there are many nonprofit organizations that support wildlife and Department programs. This bill unfairly singles out and rewards only one organization with a dedicated funding source.

In conclusion, the Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the bill and the support of the committee in opposing passage of the bill.

Office of the Secretary

1020 S Kansas Ave., Ste. 200, Topeka, KS 66612-1327
Phone 785-296-2281 Fax 785-296-6953 www.kdwp.state.ks.us

House Agriculture & Natural
Resources Budget Committee
Date **03-06-07**
Attachment # **4**