

STATE OF KANSAS

**WILL CARPENTER**

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

VICE CHAIR: SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET

MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS

Representative Will Carpenter  
Oral Testimony  
HB2097

### **Personal Experience**

As a lifelong outdoorsman, I have experienced and enjoyed just about every season, species, and ecosystem that Kansas has to offer. Kansans across the state have a strong culture of hunting and fishing that is passed down through generations. I feel grateful to those who taught me the skills I know and enjoy passing them along to my children and grandchildren. There are no better memories or lessons than those encountered while enjoying the outdoor experiences our state has to offer.

### **Professional Background**

I also have the privilege of serving as a commissioner for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. In both my current and previous term, I've heard firsthand from our staff biologists, game wardens, and concerned citizens about the habitat and access concerns across the state. Kansas is a private land state, and nothing will or should ever change that.

However, this does mean that the state has the challenge of looking for creative solutions to improve habitat and provide public access in collaboration with landowners. If we can't maintain habitat, we will lose the healthy populations of wildlife that we enjoy. And if access isn't available, we will see the number of hunters and anglers in the next generation continue to decline.

### **Why Support HB2097**

The tax credit renewed by HB2097 embodies the best of these principles, combining voluntary actions of private landowners with enhanced habitat and access for recreation. These are exactly the type of programs that benefit the long-term ability of Kansans to hunt, fish, and fully enjoy their rights under section 21 of the Kansas Bill of Rights.

For these reasons, I support HB2097 and ask the committee to do the same.