

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

February 15, 2012

From: Stephen Wood

Subject: SB 380: *Cross bow hunting*

It is my understanding your committee is currently considering legislation which would make crossbows legal archery equipment in Kansas. I strongly support SB 380 as written. On February 2, I testified before Representative Larry Powell's committee pertaining to HB 2295. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend your meeting scheduled for Friday, February 17.

Attached to this memo is a colored map showing where the crossbow is currently legal in the United States. As of today, nineteen states are fully crossbow-inclusive, and a total of twenty-six states have regulations more inclusive than Kansas. You will notice both Oklahoma and Nebraska are crossbow states. Currently, Wisconsin and Illinois are considering full approval. Additionally, Minnesota, Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, and Alaska are moving in the crossbow direction. By this summer, it is very possible that over twenty states will be shown in green and I hope Kansas will be one of them.

In other states, the crossbow has proven to retain hunters, recruit hunters, increase revenue, and modestly reduce excessive deer population. The crossbow is certainly not the total answer to deer problems but is one tool which can help.

Recently, the Hays Daily News posed a question on their website. It simply asked, "Would you approve of Kansas making the crossbow legal archery equipment?" At last count, with over 900 votes cast, 92.7% of the people approved the question. That speaks volumes on the public opinion of the crossbow!!

Typically, some vertical bow hunters will not approve of SB 380. You will undoubtedly hear negative comments from them pertaining to the crossbow. None of the arguments used in other states are valid or true. Their dislike simply boils down to the fact that they do not want to share the woods with other hunters. Once approved in other states, hunters have returned to the woods and enjoyed their sport no matter their choice of archery equipment.

In closing, please remember these two true statements:

1. No state that has approved the crossbow has ever reversed any part of the decision. What they passed continues to work for them today.
2. No state that has approved the crossbow has ever reduced by one day, one hour, or one minute the amount of time a vertical bow hunter has to participate in his sport.

It is my sincere hope you will approve Senate Bill 380 as written and that it will soon become Kansas law. If you have any questions, call me at one of the numbers listed below.

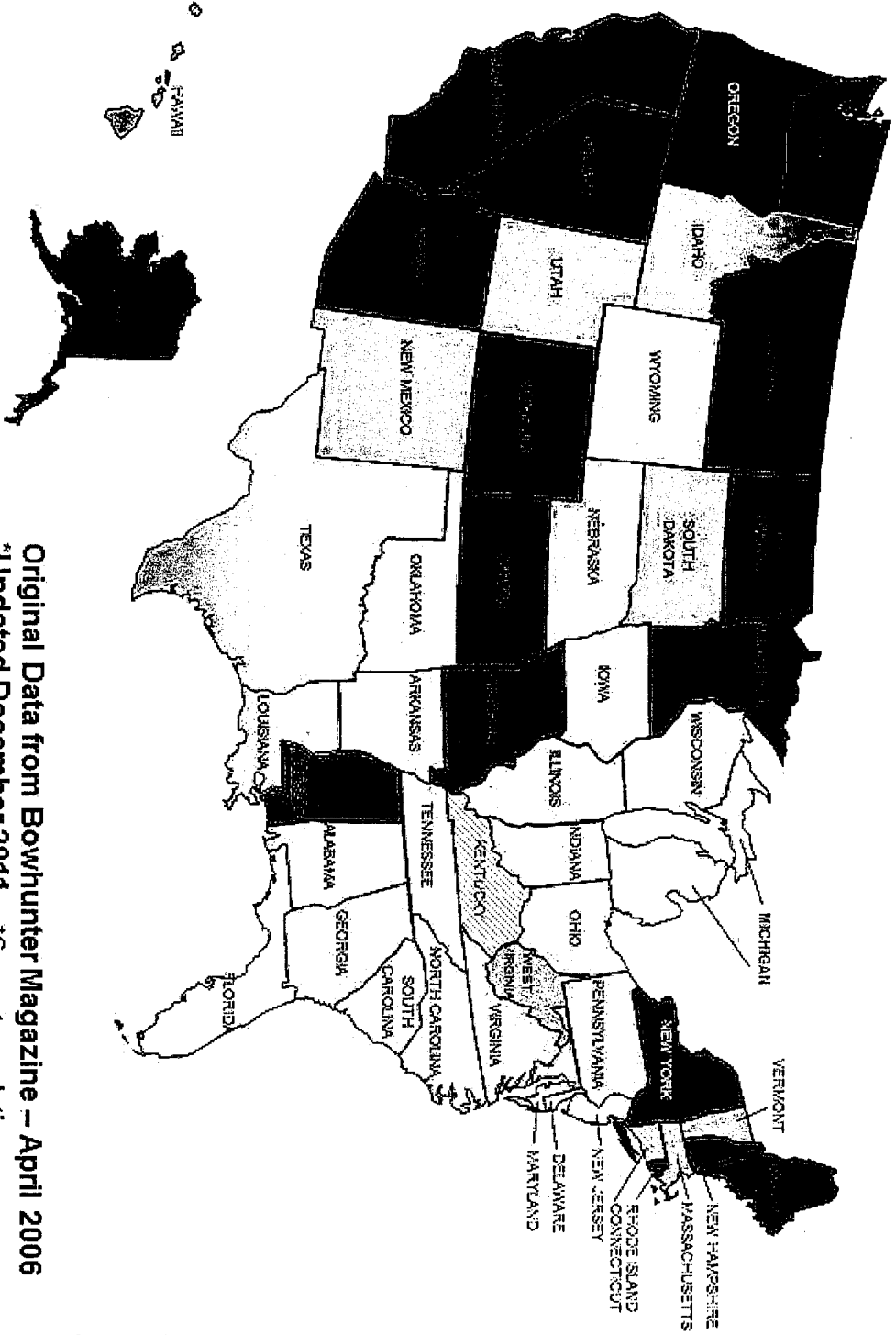
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen E. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Stephen E. Wood
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Hays, KS 67601

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State Regulations at a Glance



Original Data from Bowhunter Magazine – April 2006
 *Updated December 2011 *Current regulations

CROSSBOWS ARE:

- Legal for use in Archery Season. 19 States (38%)
- Legal during a portion of Archery season. 2 States (4%)(Dashed)
- Legal for use in Archery Season – private land only (FL). 1 State (2%)
- Legal on all WMA's and for Hunters over 65 statewide (MS). 1 State (2%)
- Legal for Hunters over a certain age (65+ (IL) MS (WI) TN (VA). 5 States (9%)
- Legal for physically challenged hunters during Archery Season. 8 States (16%)
- Legal in Firearm Season. 15 States (30%)
- Illegal hunting equipment. 1 State (2%)