

**Testimony on SB 380 relating to Crossbows
To
The Senate Committee on Natural Resources**

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March 2, 2012

SB 380 seeks to require crossbows be used in archery-only seasons for big game. The bill would be effective July 1, 2012. **The Department opposes the provisions contained in the bill.**

Crossbows are a sociologically divisive issue in the Kansas hunting community. This is not about the biology of deer hunting. Of approximately 16,000 valid responses in the KDWP 2012 deer hunting survey regarding allowing open use of crossbows in archery-only seasons, 8,000 respondents oppose allowing the use, 2,000 respondents were neutral and 6,000 respondents supported allowing the use.

The Department primarily opposes the bill because of the statutory mandate involved. Statutory mandates/restrictions over 40 years were what led to the major 2006-2008 deer statutory overhaul and the current system of deer management. As such, the KDWP already has authority to allow crossbows during archery-only seasons and in fact, the KDWP Commission is currently set to vote in March on allowing hunters older than 55 and younger than 16 to use crossbows during the archery-only deer and turkey seasons. In addition, crossbows are already allowed during modern firearms seasons and by disabled individuals during the archery season.

In summary, the Department appreciates the support of the Committee in opposing the bill.