

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..