

**Testimony on SB 57 relating to Captive Cervids
To
The Senate Committee on Agriculture**

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SB 57 seeks to, in pertinent part, revise statutes related to domesticated deer. **The Department supports the provisions related to domesticated deer contained in the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism have met many times in the past several years to attempt to address concerns that have been raised related to the possession of domestic cervids. A portion of this bill is a result of those efforts. Wild deer and domesticated deer potentially can transfer diseases to each other as well as the agricultural industry and vice-versa. Therefore cooperation between the wild cervid producers and the two Departments is critical to protect all three partners. The portion of the bill related to the KDWPT is that the KDA can request assistance from the KDWPT to enforce the pertinent domestic deer laws. As agriculture and deer have a significant economic impact on the State of Kansas, the Department feels that potentially shifting some resources towards preventing transmission of diseases between the animals may be warranted and therefore supports the provisions contained in the bill.

The Department appreciates the support of the Committee in favorable passage of the bill.