

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Tyson at 8:37 a.m. on March 5, 2004 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Members present:

Senator Christine Downey  
Senator Derek Schmidt  
Senator Dwayne Umbarger  
Senator Janis Lee  
Senator Mark Taddiken  
Senator Robert Tyson  
Senator Tim Huelskamp

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Linda Bradley, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Tony DeRossett, Kansas State Director for Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry  
Steve Swaffar, Director Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau  
LeAnn M. Schmitt, Specialist Assistant to the Secretary Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Kim Douglas, Community Services Coordinator for Mid Kansas Community Action Program

Others attending:

See Attached List.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tyson.

**Hearing on House Bill 2731**

**HB 2731 is concerning hunting; relating to voluntary contributions to Kansas Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry.**

Chairman Tyson asked Raney Gilliland, Staff, to explain **HB 2731**. He stated the bill would add a provision to existing law to hunting license applications for the applicant to make a voluntary contributions of \$2 or more to support the activities of Kansas Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry.

Tony DeRossett, Kansas State Director for Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, (FHFH), was introduced by Chairman Tyson as a proponent. Mr. DeRossett stated Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry was started in Maryland and is a simple concept in that hunters harvest deer and drop them at participating processors where they are ground into 2lbs package of burger. FHFH pays for the processing and distributes the meat to local food pantries. ([Attachment 1](#))

Steve Swaffar, Director Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB), was introduced by Chairman Tyson as a proponent. Mr. Swaffar stated KFB supports the concept by the FHFH program and has financially supported the program the last two years. KFB believes this program benefits our farmer and rancher members by reducing the deer herd that causes damage to crops, fences and other personal property. ([Attachment 2](#))

LeAnn M. Schmitt, Special Assistant to the Secretary Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, was introduced by Chairman Tyson as a proponent. Ms. Schmitt stated **HB 2731** would require the Secretary of the Department to include a provision on hunting license forms that allows for the collection of a two-dollar donation to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. ([Attachment 3](#))

Kim Douglas, Community Services Coordinator for Mid Kansas Community Action Program, was introduced by Chairman Tyson as a proponent. Ms. Douglas stated Mid Kansas Community Action Program, Inc. is proud to support the FHFH program. We have been involved with this program by being a spokesperson on the programs behalf. Our food pantry has been a distribution site and we have located

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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funds to help with meat processing costs. The meat helps the low income families and is the only meat source in food pantries, their only source of protein. (Attachment 4)

The Committee was asked by Chairman Tyson if there were any questions. Senators Lee, Schmidt, Tyson, Taddiken and Umbarger had a range of questions including depredation tags, is processing cost effective, hunters don't know about these programs, brochures- promotions-posters to inform hunters, is finance biggest problem for processing meat, adequate distribution of meat and have a link to a website to read more about application.

Senator Lee made a motion to amend the bill to require the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to report annually beginning on February 1, 2006 to the Senate Natural Resources Committee and Health Environment concerning the progress of the voluntary contributions on forms for hunting licenses going to Kansas farmers and hunters feeding the hungry. Senator Umbarger seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Senator Taddiken made a motion to pass out the bill favorably. Senator Umbarger seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, March 11, 2004.