

To: House Agriculture Committee, Rep. Kyle Hoffman, Chairman

From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: February 15, 2018

Re: HB 2743 – relating to transferability of deer permits

Chairman Hoffman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2743, relating to transferability of deer permits on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB). KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

Kansas Farm Bureau members in many areas of Kansas will tell you that one of the challenges of growing row crops is competing with the State's deer herd that do significant damage to their corn crops. Many of these members have utilized deperadation permits in the past to help protect their property. However, this does not generally solve the problem in the long term.

Therefore Kansas Farm Bureau has adopted policy in support of HB 2743 that would create a system for landowners to acquire transferable deer permits to allow hunting on their land. This will hopefully help reduce deer damage on some properties while helping to offset some of the financial losses due to deer damage.

It is important to note that Kansas Farm Bureau policy would also support an exemption for transfer fees when such fees are transferred to family members. If the committee were to decide to work the bill, we would support an amendment exempting those types of transfers from the transfer fee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2743. We encourage the committee to support passage of this bill.