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House of Representatives

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Steven C. Johnson
Representative, 108th District

Date: February 19, 2019

RE: Proponent Testimony for HB 2167

Thank you Chairman Tarwater and members of the House Commerce committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you as a proponent of HB 2167. My home is along the wooded banks of the Smoky Hill river in central Kansas. I don't know about the antelope, but I certainly see the deer playing there regularly and they well out number the people living within several miles.

For the most part, I am free to manage my land. There are many decisions about crops, inputs, managing pests and whether to participate in irrigation or oil exploration. I know I don't own the wildlife on my land. However, I do have a share in feeding them.

At one time there were transferable permits. I question whether that or our current system works better and what our priorities are for managing our deer population and hunting opportunities.

As a property owner, I would expect to have a say in who is able to hunt on my land among other property rights. I understand controlling the deer population and limiting the number of permits, but telling me who cannot hunt seems to reach further.

Across the state, we want to grow business. Policies that severely limit areas of tourism and related spending seem contrary to that. Again, I understand the need to manage the population but the lottery-only method of distribution falls short of achieving what I believe are larger goals.

Thank you again for your consideration of this issue and I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time,