

C&W Ranch

Home of Quality Performance Cattle
Smolan/Delphos/Minneapolis

To: House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee
Representative Sean Tarwater, Chair

From: Joel W. Wimer, C&W Ranch, Ltd.

Re: Support for House Bill 2167, establishing a system for the transfer of certain deer hunting permits to nonresidents

Date: February 19, 2019

My name is Joel Wimer. My immediate family and I operate C&W Ranch, predominantly a commercial cow/calf operation specializing in replacement heifer production of Black and Red Angus cattle. We also operate C&W Ranch Bed and Breakfast, and C&W Ranch Outfitting service.

We have been outfitting and guiding upland game hunters for 27 years, turkey and deer hunters for about 15 years, and waterfowl for three years. We operate approximately 6000 acres of land owned and leased in Saline and Ottawa counties. The greatest benefits that we can provide out-of-state fee hunters is a rewarding hunting experience on varied terrain over a 70-mile radius, and comfortable Bed & Breakfast lodging for gentlemen hunters.

Our out-of-state hunters also pay for lodging, shotgun shells, rifle rounds, liquor, snack food, restaurants and sporting goods and other items, all taxed on a local and state level.

The income derived from our guide/outfitter service is not a huge percentage of our overall gross revenue. However, in years of very tight commodity revenues and the age-old cost-price squeeze in operating an agricultural entity, every bit of revenue helps in any operation.

It is very difficult to offer the kind of service that we offer when we are limited by exclusive out-of-state permit regulations. All of our hunters are return clientele at least to the core of the groups. Oftentimes, if one person does not draw a permit, one or more additional people in those groups will decline to come that season.

I am totally in favor of HB 2167 reinstating the transferrable landowner hunt-on-your-own-land permits. I observed the process that took this ability and right away from landowners and I absolutely could not believe it was happening.

My reasons for supporting House Bill 2167 are very simple and include:

1. There is always a need and desire for agricultural operators to maximize and diversify their income by utilizing all of the resources on their land owned and leased to the best of their ability.
2. We, as “The Ranch”, operate a fee hunt outfitting/guide service. No one but fee hunters, family, or employees ever has the opportunity to hunt on our land owned or leased. This is usually limited to fee hunters only, which adds to the revenue stream of the ranch. Our land does not create more hunting opportunities to resident non-paid hunters.
3. I do not think that the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and “Tourism” should impede tourism in any way. This should be obvious. By eliminating the transferable landowner or tenant hunt-own-land permits, the department has done just that. Limiting out-of-state hunting, which I understand to be the state’s number one form of tourism, limits tourism dollars into the state, which means limiting tax dollar income on both a local and state level.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel W. Wimer

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