

**To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development, Representative Tarwater, Chairman**

**From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau**

**Date: February 19, 2019**

**Re: HB 2167 – An act concerning wildlife; relating to the transferability of deer permits**

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Chairman Tarwater and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2167. My name is John Donley, and I am speaking today on behalf of 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.

KFB member driven policy is supportive of the concept of landowner transferable permits. As you may be aware, these are tough economic times for our members struggling with low commodity prices and trade issues, so the opportunity to bring in outside revenue generated by transferable permits is certainly welcome.

State owned deer herds constantly compete for and consume the crops our members produce. Transferable permits will give our members another means to control this competition while bringing in a more reliable revenue stream to help offset the damage herds of deer cause to our members' property.

Our policy also supports the transfer of landowner permits to family members **without the imposition of a transfer fee**. It is frustrating to our members to have family that no longer live on the farm or even in the state who would like to come home to hunt but because of the excessive costs of the drawing system, this opportunity is often unaffordable. Allowing landowners to transfer permits to family without a transfer fee seems only logical since these deer reside on and are sustained by the landowner who already bears the costs of land ownership and crop production.

Having a transfer fee defeats the purpose of helping landowners recoup their losses caused by the State's deer herd and providing reasonable opportunity for family to come home and hunt.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.