

**Mr. Mike Skiles
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Testimony to the House Agriculture Committee in support of 2392

Honorable Chairman Rahjes, Vice Chair Eric L. Smith and Ranking Member Carlin:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2392.

HB 2392 would allow any Kansas Air or Army National Guard veterans who served for 20 years with an honorable discharge to be issued, free of charge, a lifetime combination fishing, hunting and fur harvester license. This would be an incredible way to honor the service of our National Guard veterans with something unique to our state's rich history of hunting and fishing.

The legislature as well as the people of Kansas recently acknowledged this history through passing a constitutional amendment in 2016 explicitly stating our right to hunt, fish and trap. Reducing the barrier to entry to regularly participate in this Kansas tradition would help recruit and retain members of the Guard within our borders. As those members near retirement, they have plenty of options of where to move where there is year-round sun or beaches or mountains, but our state is blessed with abundant wildlife and easy access to hunt and fish would be a unique amenity for them to consider.

As a member of the Guard, I have seen first hand how difficult it can be to recruit and ultimately retain members after their initial service is complete. While this may not make a difference to all members, it may make a difference to some and we need every advantage to retain our dedicated men and women of the Kansas National Guard.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I ask that the Committee support HB 2392 and recommend it favorable for passage