

WRITTEN COMMENT FOR HB2331

19 February 2021

To: Members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

Good Day. I write this message in opposition to the proposed landowner/ tenant deer permit transfer process as outlined in HB2331. As a former Commissioner with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (then just KDWP), I am well aware of the Department's dedication and professionalism when it comes to providing a healthy, robust and trophy quality deer population in the State of Kansas. The original intent of the landowner/tenant permit was to provide an opportunity to harvest the deer that benefited from their land. The tenor of this intent should be maintained.

According to KDWP data, nearly 22,000 landowner/tenant deer permits are currently issued each year; however, many more parcels of land qualify for transferable landowner/tenant deer permits, which could dramatically increase hunting pressure and harvest, subsequently impacting the age structure of harvested bucks – the single greatest factor in preserving Kansas' reputation as a trophy deer destination.

The economic value of that well managed deer population as a hunting resource sought after by non-residents from far and wide should not be watered down by allowing landowner/tenants to transfer permits designated for them to others. I have no doubt that though it may be a few wishing for this change right now, if HB2331 is passed, there will be a flood of transfers going forward, seismically changing the landscape of deer management for the State of Kansas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathy Brown George
Junction City, Kansas
Kgeorge.tdc@cox.net