

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: SOCIAL SERVICES
BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, LABOR &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

WILL CARPENTER

REPRESENTATIVE, 75TH DISTRICT
6965 SW 18TH STREET
EL DORADO, KANSAS 67042
(316) 541-2932

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 521 E
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7660

Testimony on HB 2331

February 22, 2021

Good Afternoon, Committee

I should offer my support to this bill to destroy deer hunting in Kansas as we know it. We should offer 99,000 additional deer permits in Kansas. Heck, we ought to just do over the counter permits. Wipeout 60 years of careful deer management in Kansas. Then in a few years when the resource has been depleted, folks will understand why I am so opposed to this bill.

I was a Wildlife and Parks commissioner in the late nineties when we had a transferrable permit system. It was difficult to enforce and unpopular. To get rid of that system, the Agency agreed to raise the non-resident permits to offset the issue. Fast forward to where we are now. Non-residents receive 24% of the tags.

But I stand opposed to this bill, not for me but for our kids, grandkids, and residents. Deer hunting permit sales to residents have been declining for some years now due to lack of access. This bill will only add to this decline.

Most landowners already have the opportunity to make money off of deer hunting by leasing their land. I don't have a problem with that. The land can be leased for \$5 to 10 per acre or more. Most of the prime hunting land is leased or purchased for hunting.

Believe it or not, there are trained Wildlife managers out there that know more than Legislators. They go to college and are well trained in managing deer. They have done an excellent job in Kansas.

We are a top destination for out of state trophy deer hunters. Ranking in the top ten nationally. That is what is fueling the demand for non-resident permits but there is more to this.

It is about the resource. Deer in Kansas and how to sustain that resource for the future. As a Wildlife and Parks Commissioner, I was always about creating hunting opportunities and I still am. With that said, first and foremost is making sure the resource can withstand pressure of increased harvest so that it is there for all hunters, residents, and non-residents alike, our kids and grandkids. Those folks will not be coming anymore to hunt if we deplete the resource.

I ask this committee to please get informed and educated on this important issue. I would ask that you think about the unintended consequences of this bill. I implore you and I beg you to think about the impact of this bill on one of our most important natural resource. Please.

Now I will read something my grandson wrote after harvesting his deer. And with your help many more.

Thank You, Will