

**To:** House Committee on Agriculture, Representative Kyle Hoffman, Chairman

**From:** Joe Ludlum, on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau

**Date:** February 14, 2017

**Re:** Testimony HB 2208- An act concerning wildlife; relating to the transferability of deer permits

Chairman Hoffman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2208. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 40,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

My name is Joe Ludlum and I am an active member of KFB, farmer and landowner in Bourbon County, Kansas. One of my biggest challenges in growing row crops has been competing with the State's deer herd that annually attempt, and often succeed, in harvesting my crops before I do.

I have utilized Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) depredation permits in the past to help protect my property but even though I have successfully harvested many deer utilizing such permits, I have been unable to recoup my financial losses caused by the deer.

Consequently, that is one reason I am here today in support of HB 2208, to encourage your support in developing a system for landowners to acquire transferable deer permits to allow hunting by nonresident hunters on my land that would help 1) reduce deer damage to my property, 2) help offset my financial losses due to deer damage, 3) put deer meat into the food supply.

Neither KFB policy nor I support a transfer fee being given to the secretary of KDWPT for issuing a transferable permit. This defeats part of the purpose of having a transferrable permit, of helping me recoup my losses caused by the State's deer herd.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for HB 2208 and my experiences in dealing with the financial loss of trying to run a productive farming operation in competition with the State's deer herd. I would be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.