

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



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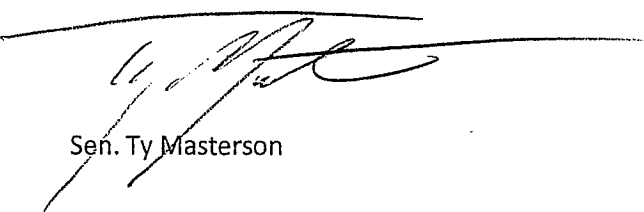
Mr. Chairman & Members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2295.

The key component of this bill, for me, has a personal connection. My father-in-law is an avid bow hunter, who has always loved and enjoyed the sport. Currently he has reached a point at which getting his bow back and holding it in a ready position has become prohibitive to his ability to hunt. He is not disabled in any way that would qualify him for a disability use under our current statute; consequently he is unable to continue bow hunting here in Kansas. With the changes proposed in this bill, a horizontal bow, or "crossbow", which allows him to hold his bow in a locked back position, will be authorized for use in season. He and others in the same position could again enjoy the hunt and the resources of our great state. I have personally benefited from his enjoyment with an annual supply of venison, which my family has come to look forward to every year. He actually brought us two this year from South Carolina where he has some property and is free, as a bow hunter, to hunt doe in season without even needing a tag. I have never understood the opposition to the use of a crossbow by some. Hunting is a sport of "weapon of choice", each one bringing with it a different challenge for the hunter. It is the responsibility of the Department of Wildlife and Parks to manage our wildlife populations through permitting and seasons. It's a completely unnecessary overreach for us to limit a hunter's choice of firearm or bow.

I also support the provisions of this bill that extend the season and help with hunters feeding the hungry. I think both of these provisions are positives for our constituents allowing more flexibility for our hunters and providing food for many in need. The only provision I have concern with is the fee increase, but I will leave that decision to the wisdom of this committee.

Thank you for letting me testify, and I would be glad to stand for questions at the appropriate time,



Sen. Ty Masterson

House Ag & Natural Resources
February 18, 2011
Attachment 1