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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Chairman Powell

Members of Ag Committee

I am testifying my support for HB 2295. There is a number issue I feel important and will be addressed with this bill. One of the most important is the goal of HB2295 is to reduce the number of deer accidents in Kingman county by allowing an extended hunting season for antlerless deer in to January 23rd. Also supporting this bill is written testimony by the Kingman County Economic Development Council, Jane Wallace, Executive Director, stating their concern for the high number of car-deer accidents in their area.

Most of the hunters I know are not the farmers, they are people that work in town and like to hunt when they can, however, with the short days in January, by the time they get off work, they are unable to make it to their deer stands before sunrise or sunset. By extending this season to January 23rd, they will actually have two weekends to hunt. With this in mind, I believe it will actually encourage more people to hunt that might not buy a license during the regular season.

I also support the hunters feeding the hungry as a great program to help provide high protein meat for food banks, shelters, and people in need of a healthy food. I know hunters that after they take their deer, would like to continue to hunt but have nowhere to go with the meat and cannot afford to pay another processing bill to give it away. Also, as good stewards of hunting, they do not like to shoot a deer just to kill one, this will be a way to allow them to hunt more and do something positive for their community: by helping reduce the deer population and provide meals for the needy.

Also, the provision to allow a crossbow to be used during bow season will allow older, younger, and female hunters that might not be able to pull a regular bow to hunt, thus, selling more hunting permits and help reduce the overpopulation.

I get many reports of large herds grazing on farmer's wheat, stored hay along the fields, damaging bales, and fences. Many are saying and asking that something needs to be done. I do believe this will help them address this problem also.

In closing, I urge you to consider a workable solution to this problem by helping me support HB2295.

House Ag & Natural Resources
February 18, 2011
Attachment 3