

Chairman Powell and members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2295

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with the Ag Committee a concern of mine in Reno County. The past several years I have seen a marked increase in the deer population in our area, and each year observe more crop and property damage from their activity. It is not uncommon to see herds in my fields of twenty or more deer.

I have heard there is a belief that a possible solution to this overpopulation is to rent farm ground to the Wildlife and Parks Department for open hunting. I farm over 6,000 acres in Reno country and let hunters that go through me hunt does on over 2500 acres for free already. It's not that they don't have a place to hunt, they don't have enough time because they work in town and its dark before they can get out here during the week.

Renting my land to Wildlife and Parks is not an option for me; I do not permit hunting on my ground by anyone I do not expressly know, due to safety and asset protection concerns. I have seen far too much damage done to crops, fencing and irrigation systems by irresponsible hunters to allow those I do not know to hunt on my ground.

I would like to see an extended deer hunting season for our area, unit #15, permitting me to allow designated hunters on my ground for a greater period of time with the goal of further controlling the deer population and preventing further damage.

I also support hunters feeding the hungry and W & P's need to support this great program. I feed the deer on my irrigated corn all season long for free, the hunter' could pay a little to feed hungry people also.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Walt Burling  
Walt Burling Farms, Inc.  
13215 S Partridge Road  
Partridge KS 67566  
620-567-2421