



**Testimony on SB 152 relating to Suppressors and Concealed Carry
To
The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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SB 152 seeks to allow permitted concealed carry and suppressors while hunting. The Department supports the provisions contained in the bill.

The provisions in the bill would allow concealed carry permit holders to carry concealed while hunting. Concealed carry has long been allowed while hunting or angling with two major exceptions, archery only seasons and spotlighting. The spotlighting prohibition is statutory and the archery only prohibition is regulatory. In 2007, after passage of the concealed carry permit laws, the Department requested an Attorney General's opinion on which law was applicable. The Attorney General opined that the Department's specific narrowly tailored prohibitions took precedence over the broader allowances. Since that time, there have been increasing requests to allow permitted concealed carry while hunting. The KDWP Commission looked at the issue last year but took no action. The Department feels there would be no biological impact from the passage of this bill.

The provisions of the bill would also allow the use of suppressors while hunting. An unofficial survey of states via the Internet showed that approximately fifty percent of states that responded allowed the use of suppressors while hunting. Prior to the passage of a bill by the Legislature allowing the possession of suppressors by Kansas residents, this was non-issue. Since that time, there have been increasing requests to use suppressors for hunting. The Commission recently considered and authorized the use of suppressors when conducting wildlife damage control operations permitted by the Department. The Commission briefly considered the issue in relation to all hunting last year but took no action. The Department feels there would be no biological impact from the passage of this bill and there is merit in the use of suppressors in various hunting scenarios.

In summary, the Department appreciates the support of the Committee in passage of the bill.