

Joyce Hladky

From: Steve Sorensen [webforbs@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 1:57 PM
To: Jerry Williams; Vince Wetta; Brian Weber; Ponka-We Victors; Caryn Tyson; Willie Prescott; Larry Powell; Charlotte O'Hara; Tom Moxley; Dan Kerschen; Kyle Hoffman; Brett Hildabrand; Gary Hayzlett; Bob Grant; Dan Collins; Bob Brookens; Elaine Bowers; Tom Arpke; Michael Peterson
Subject: HB 2709



KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The voice of outdoor Kansas

February 29, 2012

Dear Chairman Powell and Representatives,

The Kansas Wildlife Federation is a 62-year old statewide non-profit grassroots organization with over 1,200 members. We are an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation and represent approximately 8,000 members and associates of the NWF in Kansas. KWF promotes hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the benefit of all hunters, anglers and conservationists.

KWF supports the premise behind HB 2709. However, there are major problems with the bill as written and we suggest the following changes before we can support the bill:

- 1) The civil lawsuit aspects of the bill need to be removed. The presiding judge should be able to levy the restitution charges in the bill without the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) having to file a separate civil suit. This will save the Kansas sportsmen over \$250,000 annually in expenses incurred by KDWPT filing civil suits.
- 2) HB 2709 calls for all the revenue received as a result of the civil cases to go to the State General Fund, not the Wildlife Fee Fund.
- 3) If HB 2709 results in the restitution money going to the State General Fund, the KDWPT has no control over these funds, which would result in a diversion of funds and potentially jeopardize federal funding for KDWPT. If so, HB 2709 would result in the sportsmen of Kansas losing over \$11 million in federal aid to KDWPT.
- 4) HB 2709 is only written for white-tailed deer. We also are concerned about mule deer, elk and pronghorn poaching violations. HB 2709 should be expanded to cover these trophy animals. In fact, it should cover trophies of walleye, striped bass, wipers and other fish sp

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Without the above changes, we urge you to table HB 2709. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



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The Kansas Wildlife Federation promotes hunting and fishing opportunities and associated recreation for the benefit of all hunters, anglers and conservationists. KWF supports the sustainable use and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats through education, partnerships, outreach, and policy oversight.

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Attachment 11-1