

To Chairman Ralph Ostermeyer

Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee

My name is Steve Schweizer and I am providing written testimony as a proponent of SB 380. I farm with my two brothers in western Reno, Stafford, and, Rice counties. The week of February 7, 2011 while driving cattle, I observed a herd of over 60 deer grazing on soybean and milo stalks. Through the winter months we regularly observe 15 - 30 per herd, but this winter, as well as last, the numbers have increased. Over the last 6 years of driving, my family has had 6 collisions with deer. My wife has had an accident involving deer that totaled our car. My son and daughter-in-law also had an accident involving deer that totaled their car this winter. We usually have hunters approach us about bow hunting, but, typically these are trophy-buck hunters. We need hunters who are willing to hunt and allowing crossbows to hunt during bow season should help. The deer population needs to be more tightly controlled, and, it seems a waste not to harvest them in a way so as to benefit someone.

Respectfully,

Steve Schweizer